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Sleepy driver allegedly hits race runner. **PAGE 5**

Face masks now optional at CPA ports. **PAGE 5**

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 82

www.saipantribune.com

TUESDAY APRIL 26, 2022

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Torres wants OAG disqualified and criminal charges set aside

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' lawyer has informed the CNMI Superior Court that it intends to file a motion to disqualify the Office of the Attorney General from this case, and a motion to dismiss the criminal case it filed against him entirely.

During an arraignment hearing yesterday in the criminal case filed by the OAG alleging 12 counts of misconduct in public office and theft against Torres, the governor, through his lawyer, Viola Alepuyo, pleaded not guilty before judge pro tempore Alberto Tolentino.

Aside from Alepuyo, Torres' brother, attorney Victorino Torres, and Anthony Aguon was present to represent the governor, while Robert Glass appeared in behalf of the OAG.



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is followed by dozens of supporters as he leaves judge pro tempore Alberto Tolentino's courtroom following his arraignment hearing yesterday where he pleaded not guilty to 12 counts of misconduct in public office and theft charges filed against him by the Office of the Attorney General.

Alepuyo gave the court an official oral notice of her client's intent to file a motion to both disqualify the OAG from the case, and to dismiss the case entirely on May 2.

"Ralph Torres is innocent and therefore he enters a plea of not guilty. Also, we anticipate filing a motion to disqualify the Office of the Attorney General as well as a motion to dismiss. This is our notice to this court," she said.

Alepuyo also asked that the court set an evidentiary hearing pursuant to her intent to file a motion to disqualify the OAG.

The court agreed to an evi-

See **TORRES** on **Page 4**

COVID shots still work but researchers hunt new improvements

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

COVID-19 vaccinations are at a critical juncture as companies test whether new approaches like combination shots or nasal drops can keep up with a mutating coronavirus—even though it's not clear if changes are needed.

Already there's public confusion about who should get a second booster now and

who can wait. There's also debate about whether pretty much everyone might need an extra dose in the fall.

"I'm very concerned about booster fatigue" causing a loss of confidence in vaccines that still offer very strong protection against COVID-19's worst outcomes, said Dr. Beth Bell of the University of Washington, an adviser to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention.

Despite success in preventing serious illness and death, there's growing pressure to develop vaccines better at fending off milder infections, too—as well as options to counter scary variants.

"We go through a fire drill it seems like every quarter, every three months or so" when another mutant causes frantic tests to determine if

See **COVID** on **Page 4**

COVID UPDATE

Zero hospitalizations; 42 new cases

There have been no hospitalizations from COVID-19 in the CNMI for over a week now, covering the period from April 18 to April 24, 2022.

According to a news release yesterday, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. said there is zero individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19 as of April 25, 2022.

Also, 42 additional individuals have been confirmed

positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 11,263 cases since March 28, 2020. A duplicate was deleted.

Of the 42 new cases, 18 were identified on April 18, two on April 19, three on April 20 (all on Tinian), nine on April 21, six on April 22, two on April 23 (one on Tinian), and two on April 24.

Of the total cases that have
See **ZERO** on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE



LOCAL

McDonald's of Saipan donates \$25,000 to the Pacific Mini Games as a silver sponsor.

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LOCAL

A new book called Latte in the Marianas is launched at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

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OVERDRIVE

New tips and technologies are now available to protect kids in and around automobiles.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

McDonald's donates \$25K for 2022 Pacific Mini Games

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

McDonald's of Saipan donated \$25,000 to the Pacific Mini Games yesterday afternoon, making the company a silver sponsor of the event.

Marcia Ayuyu, vice president of McDonald's of Saipan, led McDonald's officials in turning over the \$25,000 check to the Pacific Mini Games organizing committee at the company's headquarters in Dandan.

She said they are proud and excited to be part of the Pacific Mini Games. "This is a wonderful way to bring all

the athletes from the Pacific together to showcase their athletic talents here in our islands. McDonald's has always been in support of local sports and promoting active lifestyles and is no stranger to supporting athletic competitions through the years," she said. "This event will be monumental and truly special for the athletes, and we are committed to promoting more events like this in the CNMI."

The Pacific Mini Games is taking place on June 17-25 in the CNMI. Thousands of athletes, coaches, officials, and their families from 24 countries in the Pacific are expect-

ed to gather in the CNMI to participate in the games.

In a separate statement, Joe Ayuyu, president and CEO of McDonald's of Saipan and Guam, said, "We want to express our best wishes and appreciation to all the athletes and visitors at this special event. Good luck to all!"

Marco Peter, who chairs the Pacific Mini Games organizing committee, thanked the McDonald's family "for this kind gesture of being one of our top sponsors for the Mini Games, which is going to be a huge event, the first time that we ever host here in the CNMI. ...This will go a long



From left, Pacific Mini Games 2022 organizing committee chair Marco Peter, Pacific Mini Games CEO Ben Babauta, Keolani Rios, Lana Seman, and Nishtar Thomas receive the \$25,000 check from McDonald's of Saipan's Mable Ayuyu Glenn, Marcia Ayuyu, vice president of McDonald's of Saipan, and baby Kaden.

LEIGH GASES

way. And we thank you again from the bottom of our hearts. And we hope to have this continued relationship with your organization, for the Games and for the future for our legacy after the Games."

Pacific Mini Games CEO

Ben Babauta credits McDonald's for being "very supportive throughout the Commonwealth and in Guam. This will bring a lot of excitement for our visitors, athletes, and also officials. It is the biggest event that the CNMI is putting on..."

According to Babauta, some of the athletes will be housed at the Grandvrio Hotel which is walking distance to the Beach Road branch of McDonald's. "It will definitely also boost the economy," he added.

April 25-29 is Re-entry Week



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs the proclamation designating the week of April 25-29, 2022, as Re-entry Week.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has designated the week of April 25-29, 2022, as Re-entry Week, to emphasize the importance of helping formerly incarcerated individuals become productive members of society, while also reducing crime and recidivism.

In a proclamation signing last Thursday, April 21, Torres encouraged all CNMI citizens

to recognize the impact that Reentry has on preparing people to live safe and productive lives after incarceration.

"By supporting people who are committed to rectifying their mistakes, redefining themselves, and making meaningful contributions to society, we help reduce recidivism and build safer communities," he stated in the procla-

mation document..

The proclamation recognizes that nearly all incarcerated individuals will eventually leave prison or jail and return into the community and many of those with a criminal history often struggle to find stable housing, employment or education, regain voting rights, and pay for significant debt.

See APRIL on Page 4

NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022

Radiate excellence in the sport of patience.

Golf has been a sport on the Pacific Mini Games program seven times in the past. From 1985 till 2001, when Norfolk Island hosted, Golf was a part of the Games. In 2009 it was then picked back up again for the Cook Islands Games. It has remained a part of the Pacific Mini Games ever since.

GAME IS ON! June 17 - 25, 2022

- Participating Countries: 15
- Competition Schedule: 22 - 25 Jun 2022
- Competition Venue: Coral Ocean Golf Resort
- Number of Athletes: 101

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

| | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---------|-------|-----------------|
| American Samoa | Cook Islands | EU | FIJ | Guam |
| Morocco | Norfolk Island | Palau | Samoa | Solomon Islands |
| Tahiti | Tonga | Vanuatu | | |

www.northernmarianas2022.com

New book on latte in the Marianas launched at JKPL



LEIGH GASES

Joseph Quinata and Kelly Marsh pose with the new book *Latte in the Marianas* at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Saturday morning.

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A new book featuring one of the most iconic images of Chamorro culture, the latte, could soon be coming to a coffee-table near you, with Saturday morning's launch of *Latte in the Marianas* at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

The new book, a compilation of 80 voices that contributed to the stories, knowledge, and histories of the latte was unveiled to the public—fittingly enough—at the Children of our Homeland Center building of the library, which is set inside a replica of an ancient latte Chamorro house.

Contributing authors Kelly Marsh from Guam, and Joseph Quinata, chief program officer from the Guam Preservation Trust, led the presentation of the book to school librarians, JKPL librarians, educators, and other members of the public.

"The book is both a vivid and beautiful oversized coffee table book as well as a compilation of over 130 pages of single and double-page entries written by highly regarded cultural practitioners, historians, archaeologists, and historical preservationists who have

been part of the Marianas' cultural renaissance and have years or decades of expertise and experiences to share," said a statement from the Ayuda Foundation, which is one of the project's supporters.

According to Marsh's presentation, she said the book is "very digestible" and "user friendly," but has "very good academic sources and over 1,000 archaeology reports." The articles are either in 50 words, 250 words, or 500 words, which can be read in a couple of minutes or up to 15 minutes.

Quinata said that all public libraries in Guam and the CNMI, including Tinian and Rota, and all public and private school libraries will get a copy of the book. "That's really the main reason why we're here—to distribute the books to the library. And I like to thank the librarians for really preserving our culture... taking care of the books... and making it accessible to the public."

Beth Demapan, technical services librarian of JKPL, said that having the book in the library is a great addition

as it will impact the community "because this book is a compilation of stories, historical information, archaeological research... and it's for the people."

The *Latte in the Marianas* project was made possible by Ayuda Foundation, the Guam Preservation Trust, Humanities Guåhan, the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, the Guam Tourist Attraction Fund, Nihi Ta Fanhasso' Cultural and Historical Consulting, Kaleidic Design, and Micronesian Heritage Consulting, LLC.

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Japan to send envoy to Solomons amid worries over pact with China

TOKYO (AP)—Japan is sending a vice foreign minister to the Solomon Islands on Monday amid worry over a recent security agreement that the South Pacific nation struck with China that could increase Beijing's military influence in the region.

Vice Foreign Minister Kentaro Uesugi's three-day trip to Solomon Islands comes on the heels of a visit by a senior U.S. delegation, who warned that Washington would take unspecified action against the South Pacific nation should the security deal with China pose a threat to U.S. or allied interests.

The security pact, which China and the Solomons confirmed last week, has also alarmed neighboring countries and Western allies, including Japan, that fear a military buildup in the region.

"We believe the deal could affect the security of the entire Asia-Pacific region and we are watching the develop-

ment with concern," Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi said Friday.

Uesugi, during his visit to the Solomon Islands, is expected to convey Japan's concern about the security pact and discuss bilateral and regional issues.

Japan sees China's increasingly assertive military activity in the East and South China seas as a threat in some of the world's busiest sea lanes.

Japan is especially concerned about Chinese military and coast guard activity in the East China Sea near the Japanese-controlled Senkaku islands, which China also claims and calls Diaoyu.

Tokyo has in recent years significantly stepped up security cooperation and expanded joint drills with the United States and other Western partners, including Australia, India, France, Britain and Germany, that share its concerns about China's growing influence.

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APRIL

From Page 2

"These barriers can contribute to recidivism which increases victimization and decreases public safety. ... Working with formerly incarcerated individuals to create opportunities for them to be productive members of society will benefit their families and our community in many ways, including improving safety and preventing and reducing crime.

In May 2019, the Substance Abuse, Addiction and Rehabilitation Program established the Offender Advocacy Program as a re-entry and reintegration program that aims to provide readiness for employment, assist and guide to

avail of educational programs, provide resource support with homelessness, and access community linkage resources.

In 2021, the program helped four mothers avail of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.'s Emergency Shelter program; two individuals that have served over 10 years in prison received services at the Offender Advocacy Program and are productive citizens today. In 2021, the Offender Advocacy program provided housing linkage services for seven individuals, 13 availed of Medicaid, 12 of the Nutritional Assistance Program, four secured jobs, two graduated from NMTI, and six earned their Adult Basic Education through the Northern Marianas College. (*Saipan Tribune*)



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres poses with Substance Abuse, Addiction, and Rehabilitation Program special assistant Yvette R. Sablan, SAAR, the HOPE Recovery Center, local dignitaries, CNMI government departments and agencies, and members of the community after proclaiming the week of April 25 - 29, 2022 as Re-entry Week in the CNMI.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

COVID

From Page 1

the shots are holding. Pfizer vaccine chief Kathrin Jansen told a recent meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences.

Yet seeking improvements for the next round of vaccinations may seem like a luxury for U.S. families anxious to protect their little children—kids under 5 who are not yet eligible for a shot. Moderna's Dr. Jacqueline Miller told The Associated Press that its application to give two low-dose shots to the youngest children would be submitted

to the Food and Drug Administration "fairly soon." Pfizer hasn't yet reported data on a third dose of its extra-small shot for tots, after two didn't prove strong enough.

COMBINATION SHOTS MAY BE NEXT

The original COVID-19 vaccines remain strongly protective against serious illness, hospitalization and death, especially after a booster dose, even against the most contagious variants.

Updating the vaccine recipe to match the latest variants is risky, because the next mutant

could be completely unrelated. So companies are taking a cue from the flu vaccine, which offers protection against three or four different strains in one shot every year.

Moderna and Pfizer are testing 2-in-1 COVID-19 protection that they hope to offer this fall. Each "bivalent" shot would mix the original, proven vaccine with an omicron-targeted version.

Moderna has a hint the approach could work. It tested a combo shot that targeted the original version of the virus and an earlier variant named beta—and found vaccine recipients developed modest levels of antibodies capable of fighting not just beta but also newer mutants like omicron. Moderna now is testing its omicron-targeted bivalent candidate.

But there's a looming deadline. FDA's Dr. Doran Fink said if any updated shots are to be given in the fall, the agency

would have to decide on a recipe change by early summer.

DON'T EXPECT BOOSTERS EVERY FEW MONTHS

For the average person, two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine plus one booster—a total of three shots—"gets you set up" and ready for what may become an annual booster, said Dr. David Kimberlin, a CDC adviser from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

After that first booster, CDC data suggests an additional dose offers most people an incremental, temporary benefit.

Why the emphasis on three shots? Vaccination triggers development of antibodies that can fend off coronavirus infection but naturally wane over time. The next line of defense: Memory cells that jump into action to make new virus-fighters if an infec-

tion sneaks in. Rockefeller University researchers found those memory cells become more potent and able to target more diverse versions of the virus after the third shot.

Even if someone who's vaccinated gets a mild infection, thanks to those memory cells "there's still plenty of time to protect you against severe illness," said Dr. Paul Offit of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

But some people—those with severely weakened immune systems—need more doses up-front for a better chance at protection.

And Americans 50 and older are being offered a second booster, following similar decisions by Israel and other countries that offer the extra shot to give older people a little more protection.

The CDC is developing advice to help those eligible decide whether to get an ex-

tra shot now or wait. Among those who might want a second booster sooner are the elderly, people with health problems that make them particularly vulnerable, or who are at high risk of exposure from work or travel.

COULD NASAL VACCINES BLOCK INFECTION?

It's hard for a shot in the arm to form lots of virus-fighting antibodies inside the nose where the coronavirus latches on. But a nasal vaccine might offer a new strategy to prevent infections that disrupt people's everyday lives even if they're mild.

"When I think about what would make me get a second booster, I actually would want to prevent infection," said Dr. Grace Lee of Stanford University, who chairs CDC's immunization advisory committee. "I think we need to do better."

TORRES

From Page 1

dentiary hearing on May 31.

"We anticipate having an evidentiary hearing that would be quite extensive so if we could request for the court to schedule the evidentiary hearing for on or about May 31. We anticipate the hearing to last at most, two days," Alepuyo said.

Torres' counsel also invoked her client's right to a speedy trial, which the court granted, and in doing so scheduled a trial for July 5.

Alepuyo also informed the court that her client is still exploring the option of a jury trial that would consist of members from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands.

"We're still exploring the issue regarding a jury trial at this point. I believe once the research has been done, once we review discovery and we're able to make a proper assessment of the case, then we will be able to advise the court whether we would request for a jury trial or a bench trial," she said.

"Usually when a jury trial is had in the Superior Court, it's only a jury pool from Saipan. But in this case, because this is such an important case in the CNMI, we're also exploring the possibility of requesting the court to have a jury pool available from Saipan,

Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands," she added. "I would also like to request that for all future hearings that my client's attendance be waived until such time the court feels that he must be here such as trial.

Additional requests made by Torres' counsel was for the court to waive Torres' appearance for the proceedings until trial, which the court also granted.

Glass did not oppose any of Alepuyo's notices to the court and stated that Torres is entitled to a jury trial since there are criminal charges filed against him. In the event those charges are dropped or amended, a bench trial would suffice.

Tolentino stated that he is honored to hear this matter and help the people of the Commonwealth resolve the conflict.

Members of the Republican Party of the CNMI, its board of directors, and members filled the courtroom and hallways in support of Torres.

A statement from CNMI GOP president Candace Celis said: "We have faith in the judicial system. We stand by Gov. Torres and his family and pray that equal protection under the law is applied fairly to all, regardless of party or creed."

First lady Diann Torres was also present in court yesterday, as well as Torres' brothers, and members of the governor's Cabinet.

ZERO

From Page 1

been identified in the CNMI, there have already been 11,210 recoveries, 19 active cases, and 34 COVID-19-related deaths. Of these numbers, 10,366 were identified via community testing and 897 via travel testing.

As of April 25, 2022, a total of 23,040 COVID-19 additional/booster vaccine shots have been administered; of the eligible population, 61.8% have received an additional dose. The vaccination rate is calculated using the 2020 Census population estimates for the CNMI and includes the eligible 5-years-old and older population.

A total of 1,340 COVID-19 tests were conducted on April 18-24, 2022: 392 on April 18, 2022; 140 on April 19, 2022; 41 on April 20, 2022; 347 on April 21, 2022; 355 on April 22, 2022; 40 on April 23, 2022; and 25 on April 24, 2022.

The next CHCC report will be on May 2, 2022.

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should stay home and isolate when they are sick (except to get medical care), even if they do not have symptoms; rest; stay hydrated; can take over-the-counter medicines, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen, to relieve symptoms; and live COVID-19 safe.

Report your COVID-19 positive test result online at www.staysafecnmi.com/ self-reporting within 5 days of your positive test result for a copy of your quarantine completion certificate.

Individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should stay home and live COVID-19 safe (except to get medical care or get tested for COVID-19). Other options include seeing their health care provider or calling the CHCC Tele-Triage hotline at (670) 233-2067. For a guidebook on how to live COVID-19 safe, visit www.staysafecnmi.com/livecovidsafe.

CHCC continues to encourage the community to get vaccinated if they have not done

so, or get their booster shot if they are eligible to help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, or death. People considered high risk (e.g., history of diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, or cancer, or over the age of 65), immunocompromised persons, or unvaccinated individuals are at risk of serious illness from COVID-19. Unvaccinated individuals spread the virus at a higher rate than vaccinated individuals, thereby increasing the spread and risk of serious illness toward other unvaccinated individuals.

Stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccination, which includes additional doses for individuals who are immunocompromised or booster doses for those who are eligible. Register for COVID-19 vaccines at www.vaccinatecnmi.com, or call (670) 682-7468.

Individuals aged 18 or older are eligible to avail of a booster shot; 12- to 17-year-olds can avail of a Pfizer-BioNTech booster shot. Individu-

als aged 50 or older or certain individuals who are immunocompromised can avail of a 2nd booster shot.

Data show that vaccine effectiveness against COVID-19 infection is waning after the primary series, but protection remains high against severe disease and hospitalization.

Free COVID-19 testing is available by registering at <https://covidtesting.chcc.health>. No code is required to register. Pre-registration highly recommended as slots are limited. Reserve your slot to get tested before you line up and all slots are filled.

While you wait to get tested or for your test results, stay at home as much as possible and limit your contact with others. Live COVID-19 safe: wear your mask; wash your hands; watch your distance; avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces; cover coughs and sneezes; clean and disinfect high touch surfaces daily; be alert for symptoms daily; and get tested for COVID-19. (*PR/Saipan Tribune*)

Sleepy driver allegedly hits race runner in front of Ada Gym

A driver reportedly fell asleep behind the wheel of a car and hit a runner who was participating in an early morning race last Saturday in front of the Ada Gymnasium in Susupe.

According to a Department of Public Safety news release yesterday, DPS received a 911 call reporting the auto-pedestrian incident in front of the Ada

Gymnasium in Susupe last April 23, 2022, at about 6:35am.

At the scene, police met with a witness who stated that they were part of a running race. The witness stated that they were running south when they heard a vehicle pass them on the roadway before it struck a traffic cone and attempted to swerve onto

the inner lane before hitting a runner from behind. Witnesses also stated that the vehicle was traveling at a good rate of speed. The victim was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center for further treatment.

The vehicle's driver told police that he was returning home from an overnight shift and had blacked out and does not remember what had happened.

At about 7:15am, the driver was brought to DPS central for a

follow-up investigation where it was learned that the operator had a .000% blood alcohol content and it was determined that he had fallen asleep while driving.

"DPS is asking motorists to avoid being behind the wheel while drunk, drugged, drowsy or distracted, and to be vigi-

lant for joggers, bicyclists, especially in areas where traffic cones are erected.

"DPS encourages the public to call 911 anytime to report a crime on an emergency. Our officers are here to help you," the DPS news release stated. *(PR/Saipan Tribune)*

CUC men to undergo 'Pacific Linemen Training'

Starting May 2, 2022, linemen of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will undergo the "Pacific Linemen Training" that will enable them to be certified and move up to the "trades technician" level.

According to CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho, the training will be composed of eight courses covering a span of two years, after a hiatus when Super Typhoon Yutu hit last October 2018.

The linemen will include 14 CUC staff from Saipan, four from Rota, and one from Tinian. The training will also include new staff as the training goes on.

The training will have the linemen certified under the U.S. Department of Labor,

which is funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs; the grant administrator is the Yap State Public Service Corp.

Camacho said that, once the training is completed, the certification establishes these linemen's development and knowledge of specific skills and methodologies required to perform their job safely, efficiently, and effectively."

In addition, a CUC water and wastewater certification programs training is currently ongoing, which is also funded by the U.S. Department of Labor. Camacho said that CUC also recently submitted for grant approval stage three and four of that training. *(Leigh Gases)*

Power interruption yesterday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. experienced an auto power trip yesterday at 11:40am, causing an emergency power interruption on Feeders 4 and 7.

The cause of the outage was low system lube pressure on one of the diesel engines at Power Plant 1. The areas that were affected were:

Feeder 4: Parts of Sadog Tasi, Capital Hill, As Teo, entire Kagman, Wireless Ridge, I Denni, Talafofo, Mt. Tapochau and Papago

Feeder 7: Lower Base, Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque and As Matuis

xCUC Power Generation personnel have restored the power to Feeders 4 and 7 as of 12:08pm and 11:54am, respectively.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). *(PR)*

Face masks now optional at CPA ports

Effective immediately, masking is now optional for all individuals at airports and seaports of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

In a statement yesterday, it said that CPA is making the wearing of face masks optional for individuals at CPA airports and seaports in accor-

dance with the April 18 statement from the Transportation Security Administration.

"Over the next few days, CPA staff will be removing all mask requirement signage and public announcements at CPA's airports and seaports," said CPA executive director Christopher

S. Tenorio. "Although travelers are no longer required to wear a mask, the other safety precautions that CPA has implemented will continue to be enforced. I encourage all travelers that want to wear a mask to continue to do so."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention contin-

ues to recommend that people wear masks while using indoor public transportation facilities.

More information regarding TSA's statement can be found at <https://www.tsa.gov/news/press/statements/2022/04/18/statement-regarding-face-mask-use-public-transportation>. *(PR/Saipan Tribune)*



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) NMHC RFP 2022-022

(This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD funds)
BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: May 26, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

"ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES"

The Request for Proposals and Scope of Services will be available on April 25, 2022 at the NMHC website at www.nmhc.gov.net by clicking on the "Procurement Tab" or by visiting the CDBG-DR website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Inquiries regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing or email to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net or submitted by facsimile to (670)234-9021 no later than 4:00 PM local time on May 06, 2022.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing
Corporation (NMHC)

/s/ Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"



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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the **Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors' Standing Committee for Appeals** hereby informs the general public that the Committee will hold its **Adjudicatory Hearing** on **Thursday, April 28, 2022, 9:00 a.m.** at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building.

The Agenda is as follows:

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Adoption of Agenda
- II. Adjudicatory Hearing of the Standing Committee for Appeals
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Executive Session
- V. Announcement
- VI. Adjournment

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional Agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.

** All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written and oral testimony on the above Agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three (3) minutes.

*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.

HOW TO BEHAVE AROUND NESTING SEA TURTLES



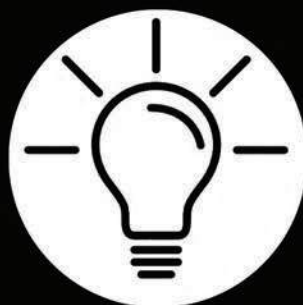
DO NOT HARASS



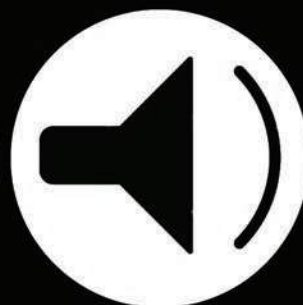
KEEP THE BEACH CLEAN



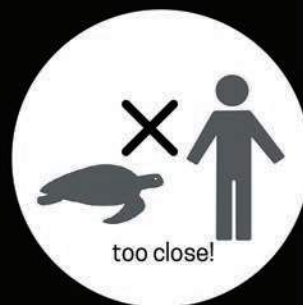
REPORT NESTING TURTLES



TURN OFF ALL LIGHTS



KEEP NOISE LEVELS LOW



WATCH FROM 10FT AWAY

Nesting turtles are frightened by lights, noises, people, and animals. If these turtles are disturbed on the beach, they will return to the ocean without laying their eggs. Do these actions to help sea turtles safely nest!



SEA TURTLE HOTLINE!

**ANONYMOUS REPORTS WELCOMED
ON POACHING ACTIVITIES, NESTS,
TRACKS, & STRANDED TURTLES.**

670-287-8537

CGC certifies 47 individuals in Mental Health First Aid

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center Healthy Transitions and System of Care programs hosted Mental Health First Aid trainings throughout the month of March and early April certifying 47 individuals.

A total of 28 individuals were certified in the Adult MHFA: six staff from Department of Labor, four staff from CGC Behavioral Response Program, four staff from CGC Crisis Counseling Program, six staff from Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc., and eight students enrolled in the Northern Marianas College Rehabilitation



Photo shows participants in the Adult Mental Health First Aid training last March 9, 2022.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Photo shows participants in the Adult Mental Health First Aid training last March 23, 2022.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Photo shows participants in the Adult Mental Health First Aid training last April 1, 2022.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In partnership with the Division of Youth Services, 19 staff and parent leaders from DYS were certified in the Youth MHFA on March 29, 2022.

and Human Services Program.

With continued partnership with the Division of Youth Services, 19 staff and parent

leaders from DYS were certified in the Youth MHFA on March 29, 2022.

MHFA is an evidence-based, early intervention program designed to teach people how to identify, understand, and respond to someone who might be struggling with a mental health or substance use challenge, and connect them with appropriate support and resources when necessary.


Participants are required to complete pre-work assignments, attend the entire instructor-led class, and complete post-work assignments to obtain a 3-year MHFA certification. Participants, at the end of the training, gain

confidence in providing initial support to others through a non-linear 5-step action step referred to as ALGEE:

- Assess for risk of suicide or harm
- Listen non-judgmentally
- Give reassurance and information
- Encourage appropriate professional help
- Encourage self-help and other support strategies

For more information on MHFA, visit <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org>. For more information or to request for the CGC's MHFA training, visit

<https://chcc.gov.mp/communitysupporttraining.php> or call (670) 323-6560/61. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION TO BID

CUC-IFB-22-025

SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the supply of fuel for light vehicles and heavy equipment for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-025, Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicles and Heavy Equipment", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 2:00 PM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 28, 2022.** Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 20, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Administrative Technician, Senior at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203
Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7659 | Fax: (670) 234-9218
Email: jpsn@sannicolaw.net

Attorney for Executrix Margarita Takai Prater

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE :
MATTER OF THE : Civil Action
ESTATE OF: : No.: 21-0131-CV
ANTONIO :
DUEÑAS TAKAI, : **NOTICE OF**
Decedent. : **HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that there will be a hearing on Executrix's Petition for Decree of Final Distribution in this probate matter to be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 5th day of May, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at Room 220A, Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 11th day of April, 2022.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Rizalito P. Tabago : **FCD -DI**
Petitioner : **CIVIL ACTION**
 : **NO. 21-0378**

-vs- : **SUMMONS FOR**
Michelle Madriaga : **PUBLICATION**
Respondent :

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to delivery or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 501607 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 18th day of April, 2022.

/s/ _____
CLERK OF THIS COURT

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter :
of the Estate of : **CIVIL ACTION**
ROSA LISUA : **NO. 22-0040**
MOTESIOU, :
Deceased. :

AMENDED NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Rebecca C. White has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Rosa Lisua Motesiou, Deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. of the said day.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Rosa Lisua Motesiou, Deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the date of first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

Dated this 20th April, 2022

/s/ Joseph N. Camacho,
Associate Judge

May: A month to celebrate Marianas tourism

In celebration of May Tourism Month, the Marianas Visitors Authority has organized a series of community events to celebrate and support the primary economic driver of the Marianas, starting with a proclamation signing ceremony on April 28, 2022, at 10am at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill to declare May as Tourism Month.

"We invite everyone to join us in celebrating Marianas tourism with the many events and activities we have planned for May, as we reflect on this year's theme, 'The Future of Travel' and what that looks like for the Marianas," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "Tourism is our economy and an industry that fits well with our beautiful islands and culture. Working together as one family, we can continue to make the Marianas a wonderful place to live, work, and visit. Tourism is everybody's business."

The MVA is also holding a student logo contest. Students are asked to incorporate the slogans "Marianas Tourism Month" and "Tourism is Everybody's Business" in their vision of the future of travel. Entries must be submitted with a Parental Consent Form by 5pm on May 23, 2022. Entries may be submitted electronically to communityprojects@mymarianas.com.



Volunteers clean the Japanese Peace Memorial during the tourism industry cleanup on May 2021, on Saipan.

marianas.com or via hardcopy at the MVA offices on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota. Entries must include the student's name, grade, school, and email address. Prizes are: \$500 for first place, \$200 for second place, and \$100 for third place. Winners will be contacted via email and announced on the MVA's official Facebook page Visit the Marianas on May 27, 2021, at 5pm.

The contest is open to all public and private school students grades 9-12 in the Marianas. By entering, contestants agree to allow MVA to use their name, image, and essay for promotional purposes, and a parental consent form must be attached. Rules and Parental Release Forms are downloadable under Events at www.facebook.com/VisitTheMarianas or at www.mymarianas.com.

www.mymarianas.com.

The public will also have the chance to win Tourism Month T-shirts and gift cards by correctly answering tourism-related trivia questions on radio stations Power 99 (97.5 FM) and KCMN-KZMI (103.9 FM) and cable station KSPN2.

In coordination with the Office of the Governor, the

CNMI Tourism Month Fit to Lead Fun Run will be held at 6:30am on Saturday, May 14, 2022, at Garapan Fishing Base in Garapan along the Saipan Beach Pathway to Quartermaster Road and back. Participants are encouraged to wear tourism- and travel-inspired costumes to win prizes. Registration and other details will be announced shortly.

The public is invited to join the Tourism Month Cleanup on Friday, May 28, 2022, in Marpi. Participants will meet at 8am at the Last Command Post in Marpi. Another site cleanup will be held on Tinian. On Rota, students of Sinapalo Elementary School will beautify the island with a beach cleanup. Students will also be awarded cash prizes for painting tourist attractions on Rota throughout the month.

On Tinian, island youth, tour guides, and industry frontline workers will be a Tourist for a Day on May 25 and 27, receiving a guided tour of the island to learn more about Tinian's tourist attractions. On Rota, participating students of Dr. Rita Inos Jr./Sr. High School will receive a guided tour as well.

On Tinian, a photo contest highlighting the island's natural, historical and cultural attractions will also be held.

Further details on Tourism Month activities will be announced as confirmed. For more information, visit www.mymarianas.com, www.facebook.com/VisitTheMarianas or contact MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda at 1.670.664.3200/1 or communityprojects@mymarianas.com. (MVA)



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MVA IS HIRING!!!

| JVA # | VACANT POSITION | OPENING DATE 4/13/2022 | CLOSING DATE OPEN UNTIL FILLED |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| JVA #22-001 | ACCOUNTANT IV | | |
| JVA #22-005 | ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES MANAGER | | |
| JVA #22-007 | PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER | | |
| JVA #22-008 | SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR | | |
| LOCATION: MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY | | | |

INTERESTED PERSONS MAY CONTACT THE MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY OFFICE AT (670) 664-3200/01 OR VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.MYMARIANAS.COM/ANNOUNCEMENTS/](https://www.mymarianas.com/announcements/) FOR MORE DETAILS.



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CUC-RAESP-22-024

INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed Architectural & Engineering Services Proposal from qualified firms to update the 2016 CUC Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), which identified a long-range plan for the most cost-effective mix of energy resources, both supply-side and demand-side management (DSM) and included a review of commercially available base load and renewable energy alternatives. The updated Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) will include optimizing this power supply portfolio to minimize costs while maximizing sustainability and resiliency while including the latest in renewable, DSM, and operating technologies.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for the project award from Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) and HUD.

The RAESP package may be obtained via email between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$300.00 for one RFP package set. **To register for the RAESP, please contact Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.**

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal; and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in a separately sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-22-024, Integrated Resource Plan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 24, 2022**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RAESP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This RAESP does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on May 10, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Procurement Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Anne Crockett, CUC Power Division Chief Engineer via email address anne.crockett@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CUC-RFP-22-026

LEASE OF OFFICE/WAREHOUSE SPACE FOR CUC POWER DIVISION TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION SECTION, SAIPAN CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of office & warehouse spaces for CUC Power Division, Transmission & Distribution Section in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-22-026, Lease of Office/Warehouse Space for CUC Power Division Transmission and Distribution Section, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 20, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 5, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC, Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Lee Lieto, CUC, Power Division Manager via email address lee.lieto@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 82

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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EDITORIAL

The administration is right to protect travelers—and its emergency authority

The Biden administration had no good options after a federal judge invalidated its mask mandates on public transportation Monday. Pushing back on the court's ruling would put the administration at odds with a great many Americans who are tired of pandemic restrictions and anxious to resume normal life. On the other hand, the coronavirus still poses a danger to society, especially in the tight spaces of trains and planes.

The administration ultimately decided to appeal, based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As frustrating as that may be to many, it would make no sense—and set a dangerous precedent—to let one judge overrule federal health experts on government policy during a health crisis. The experience of Missouri on that judicial score should be a warning of the consequences to come, this time immersing the entire nation in pandemic-precaution chaos.

Unlike earlier in the pandemic, it isn't irrational today to suggest ending mask mandates. Vaccination rates are high and, although coronavirus infection rates are again on the rise, death rates aren't. Even some medical experts say it's time to drop the mandates, if only so an exhausted public doesn't start tuning out medical guidance altogether.

Other experts warn that it's too early to know whether another deadly wave is coming, particularly with the BA.2 subvariant on the rise in Europe. Dropping pandemic safety measures prematurely, they warn, is like stopping firefighting efforts before the blaze is completely extinguished. The risk of it flaming back up is real.

This is, again, a rational medical debate to have among doctors, policymakers and the public. But the ruling by Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle, a Donald Trump appointee in a conservative Florida judicial district, wasn't based on medical issues. She ruled the government overstepped its power under the Public Health Service Act of 1944. This despite language in the act that gives the federal government broad authority over interstate travel in health emergencies. That the plaintiffs chose to file in Florida, where resistance to pandemic precautions runs high, was certainly no accident.

The Biden administration, to its credit, didn't reflexively appeal the ruling but rather announced it would first seek guidance from the CDC. The Justice Department appealed Wednesday only after the CDC advised that the travel mandate should continue until it's clear another wave isn't

See **AUTHORITY** on Next Page

Rushing to wartime reality

The headline on The New York Times' dead-tree edition's front page reported this breaking news on Wednesday: "West Rushes to Give Ukraine Heavier Weapons."

And the lede packed the power and pop of a starter's gun: "The race is on."

But, of course, everyone who read that also knew that Wednesday—the day America's big weapons rush became big news—was Day 56 of Russia's war in Ukraine. Fifty-six days into the war, the breaking news was that the United States and its NATO allies were finally sending Ukraine "bigger and more advanced longer-range weapons like howitzers, antiaircraft systems, anti-ship missiles, armed drones, armored trucks, personnel carriers and even tanks."

In other words: America and NATO were now sending all the weapons Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had been saying all along that his country desperately needed. Except the military jets, which still are not coming.

And that meant doing even more. Two days earlier, Reuters had reported: "The United States military expects to start training Ukrainians on using howitzer artillery in coming days, a senior U.S. defense official said on Monday. ... The United States is planning on teaching Ukrainian trainers on how to use some of the new batch of weapons such as howitzers and radars and then for the trainers to instruct their colleagues inside Ukraine."

So the real NEWSBREAK on Day 56 may have been that America was just getting around to training Ukraine's troop trainers, who will finally train their troops, on how to use all the big guns and vital radar systems. Then hopefully Ukraine's valiant fighters will be able to finally locate and knock out some of Russia's weapon launchers. And hopefully knock out many of Russia's rockets and projectiles that are demolishing cities and slaughtering innocent women, children and elderly.

Of course, the United States could have begun arming Ukraine with heavier weapons much earlier. But two months ago, when Vladimir Putin's military was massed at Ukraine's north, east and southern borders (and Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov were calling the West's warnings of an invasion "hysterical"), U.S. military and intelligence experts thought Russia's military could quickly defeat the out-manned, out-armed Ukrainians. They didn't want to see all the powerful weapons they gave Ukraine end up in Russia's arsenals.

Also: U.S. and European officials worried that supplying Ukraine with heavier weapons, could provide Putin with provocation to use tactical or low-yield nuclear weapons.

President Joe Biden, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, America's top generals and intelligence officials were painfully aware of the last time they had placed too much faith in a smaller ally's military. And when Afghanistan's corrupt and only semi-capable

By **MARTIN SCHRAM**
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



military collapsed (see also: quit), their military intelligence failure created a departure debacle. Austin later conceded he never even considered the possibility of that worst-case scenario. It was a misjudgment seen 'round the world. Perhaps it contributed to an excessive caution as the West did not act boldly enough, early enough, to give Ukraine maximum help as we all watched Putin mount Europe's most abominable and cowardly mass slaughter since Adolf Hitler. Faced with that moral imperative, did we do enough, early enough?

To answer that, I reached for a telephone on midday Wednesday, to begin seeking the insights of a compendium of America's top ex-officials of national security and politics. Then I glanced at my TV screen—and there he was! The compendium I was about to phone was talking on MSNBC.

Leon Panetta, a friend from journalistic yesteryears—who served in almost every job (except POTUS) that is now involved in our Ukraine decision-making—was being interviewed about today's Ukraine policy decisions.

Andrea Mitchell was asking the ex-defense secretary, ex-CIA director, ex-White House chief of staff, ex-Office of Management and Budget director, ex-House Budget Committee chair and ex-Nixon administration Republican (yes, really) if the U.S. policy-making on Ukraine reflects sufficient urgency. And Panetta, being all the above, answered with decades of been-there authority:

"This is not only a critical time in the war, it is a decisive moment. This will determine whether the Russians are stopped. ... We have got to move very, very fast to avoid a defeat. ... You cannot allow an aggressor to continue doing what Putin is doing. ... We have to stop them in the Donbas region."

Is there a risk that Putin might use America's/NATO's weapons-providing and troop-training of Ukrainians as provocation to attack NATO nations or use nuclear weapons?

"War carries risks," Panetta answered. "... This is a pivotal moment—for the United States and for our allies.

"Almost our whole hope for the future in terms of foreign policy and the fate of democracies in the world is riding with the Ukrainians."

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Transition plans: Local resources for students with disabilities

Preparing for any type of transition can be daunting. Whether it be transitioning from different locations to different homes and different friends, the task is one that should not be completed alone. Here in the CNMI, we are able to tap into a variety of local resources that can help your child, especially children with disabilities, complete the daunting task of transitioning from high school to post-education, workforce and/or independent living. These available programs are here to provide technical support and assistance to ensure a smooth, safe, and reliable transition plan for students who qualify.

One of these programs is the Pre-Employment Transition Services program under the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. This program seeks to provide services to help students with disabilities who want to work to become prepared for life after high school and have meaningful careers through training, continuing education, or finding a job through various activities. Its ultimate goal is to help students transition to be career and/or college-ready. Depending on your child's interest, the Pre-ETS program can map out an individualized plan for the various options of transition. Options include preparing your child for college at the Northern Marianas College, where disability-centered programs and services are likewise offered for enrolled students under the Disability Support Services office; preparing your child for trades/technical institution at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute; and/or preparing your child for the workforce through work experience and job trainings. For those interested in applying, you can call OVR at (670) 322-6537/8 for more information.

It is likewise important to note that college or the workforce may not be for everyone. Other may want to take some time before taking a step in that direction, or want to gain independent living skills beforehand. At the Center for Living Independently in the CNMI, their vision is to provide a comprehensive range of services which will enable our people with disabilities to live as independently as they choose within the community and their mission is to ensure the rights of people with disabilities to live independently and fully integrated within the community. Through a plan with CLI, eligible consumers can map out the skills they would like to acquire from the center. These skills include, but are not limited to, cooking, cleaning, and gardening. CLI also offers services for high school transition to postsecondary education, workforce trainings, and self-advocacy trainings. For those interested in applying, you can contact CLI at (670) 322-4303/4 for more information.

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. advocates through the Client Assistance Program for the rights of individuals with disabilities to receive OVR services in order to maintain or obtain competitive employment. You should contact NMPASI if you have applied for VR services and were denied, if you are dissatisfied with the VR services you are receiving, if your case is closed and you want to be reconsidered for services, and/or for additional questions or concerns relating to VR and the local independent living center. Our clients are our first and foremost priority. NMPASI provides a variety of programs and services that individuals with disabilities can

By TIAVA TO'OMATA
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Tiava To'omata is a program aide at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc.

avail of. These services in Direct Client Representation: investigating, negotiating, and/or mediating problems presented by individuals with disabilities who are eligible for Protection and Advocacy services and CAP services; Technical Assistance: we conduct American's with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines reviews for anyone in the CNMI; Training and Education: providing education and/or training for staff, governing boards, advisory councils, volunteers, service delivery professionals, constituency groups, and other members of the community; and Legal Services: Providing legal counsel and/or litigation services to persons and/or groups who are eligible for services.

NMPASI is the CNMI designated organization that protects the civil, legal, and human rights of people with disabilities. For more information on our programs and services, please contact NMPASI at our office numbers (670) 235-7273/4, text message (670) 287-0652, or visit our website at www.nmpasi.org.

How to avoid getting COVID in a mostly mask-free world

By LISA JARVIS
BLOOMBERG OPINION

Last week's lifting of mask requirements on airplanes and, in many parts of the country, on public transportation is a major turning point in the U.S. pandemic response. From now on, it seems, avoiding or minimizing COVID-19 infection will be a personal endeavor, not a societal one.

This is for some people a welcome shift toward normalcy and for others a cause for anxiety and confusion. Many occupy an awkward middle space between not wanting to throw in the towel and also wanting to break free of some restrictions. About 42% of adults in the U.S. have gone back to some but not all of their pre-pandemic activities, according to a Kaiser Family Foundation poll.

As the rules ease, avoiding infection gets harder—especially as more contagious variants circulate and community transmission becomes more difficult to track.

"It feels like we're being asked to partake in a trust fall," says Ajay Sethi, an epidemiologist at University of Wisconsin-Madison, referring to the team-building exercise that involves falling backward and counting on others to catch you before you hit the floor. "When is the last time you did a trust fall and enjoyed it?"

Calculating and managing one's personal risk of COVID in a community might be getting trickier, but it's still possible. Here are the most straightforward ways to minimize your risk.

Roll up your sleeve

Some obvious advice bears repeating: The best way to protect against COVID-19 is to be vaccinated. COVID fatigue is discouraging some folks who eagerly got their initial shots a year ago from getting their boosters now. But the data are clear that

vaccines keep most people out of the hospital and are estimated to have saved 1.1 million lives in the first year they were available. The value of a first booster for at-risk groups is also clear. Beyond lowering the risk of severe disease, scientists have found that it improves the potency and breadth of the memory immune cells so they are better equipped against new variants. Yet only about 30% of people in the U.S. have gotten their first booster, which leaves room for improvement.

Hang on to your mask

Mandates have lifted, but public health experts I've spoken with are nearly unanimous on the value of wearing masks in situations where people are crowded together indoors. Indeed, the current free-for-all means it makes sense to upgrade your mask to a well-fitting N95 or equivalent.

That includes on airplanes. Yes, planes have excellent air filtration—but only while in flight. The air-flow systems are typically turned off when planes sit at the gate or taxi, and then the risk of virus transmission is high.

People experiencing mask fatigue should remember: Masks need not be an all-or-nothing proposition, says Asaf Bitton, a professor of health care policy at Harvard Medical School. Consider your vaccination status and your surroundings. Going maskless is far less risky in a big box store with high ceilings, fans and an audibly rumbling HVAC system than it is in a packed bus or subway car. Attending a dinner party with friends who have tested negative in a home with windows cracked open and a portable HEPA filter running is safer than sitting elbow-to-elbow with strangers at a restaurant.

In general, it pays to consider the ventilation and filtration of any setting in deciding whether to wear a mask. As I've argued before, air hygiene is the most underappreciated way to reduce COVID transmission.

Follow the poop

Data on case numbers have grown less reliable as more people

test at home or don't test at all, but there are other ways to gauge the extent to which COVID is going around. Hospitalization data remain the most reliable indication of an outbreak, but those numbers lag a rise in infections. To see a wave coming, look to wastewater data, which tracks viral RNA levels in sewage. Everyone who has COVID flushes evidence of their infection down the toilet—evidence that exists even before it would be picked up on a test. That makes wastewater data a good sentinel for rising cases, and a guide to knowing when to be more vigilant about masking and moving your restaurant reservations to the patio.

Sethi also suggests keeping an eye on case data from neighboring communities, which can presage an uptick in your own.

He lives in Wisconsin and watches data coming from Michigan and Minnesota, which in the past two years have tracked a few weeks ahead of his state.

Include COVID-preparedness in vacation plans

People who are finally taking a long-delayed and much needed vacation should also consider the COVID status of their destination, says Neil Maniar, director of Northeastern University's Master of Public Health in Urban Health Program. Also check out local vaccination rates and mask requirements. If a lot of virus is circulating, perhaps opt to

eat only outdoors or take a private tour rather than piling into a bus with strangers.

If you're traveling to another country, know what happens if you get infected there. How long would you need to quarantine, and where might you do that? As someone who recently caught COVID while in another country, trust me when I say these things happen more often than you might think.

Constantly calculating COVID risk may seem exhausting, but it's the safest way to navigate a mostly mask-free world.

Lisa Jarvis, the former executive editor of Chemical & Engineering News, writes about biotech, drug discovery and the pharmaceutical industry for Bloomberg Opinion.

AUTHORITY

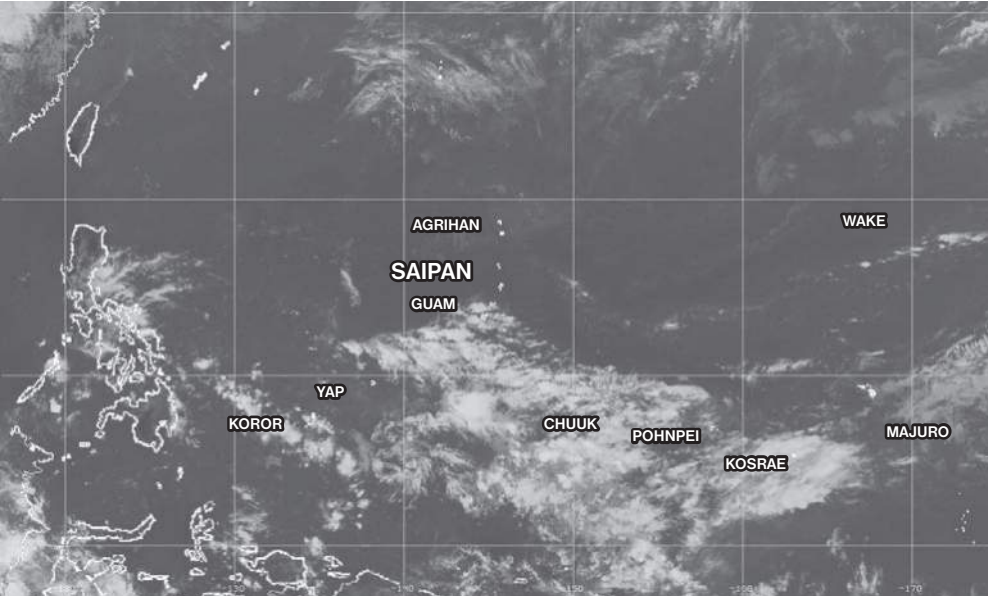
From Page 8

coming with the new variant. Science, not politics, is the proper standard for making decisions related to the pandemic—as Missouri learned too well from the damaging efforts of politicians to politicize the pandemic here.

There is risk in the appeal because, should the administration lose in the higher courts, it could hamper federal responses to future pandemics. But the imperative of ensuring travel safety—while, hopefully, clarifying the authority of health officials during health emergencies—makes it worth the risk.

The Weather

| 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|--|-----|---|-----|--------------------------------------|-----|--|-----|
| TODAY | | WEDNESDAY | | THURSDAY | | FRIDAY | | SATURDAY | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Mostly sunny, with isolated showers. ast wind 14 to 18 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph. | | Mostly sunny, with isolated showers. East wind 14 to 18 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph. | | Partly sunny, with Scattered showers. Chance of precipitation is 30%. | | Mostly sunny, with Isolated showers. | | Partly cloudy, with: Isolated showers. | |
| 87° | 76° | 87° | 76° | 87° | 76° | 87° | 76° | 87° | 76° |
| YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE | | | | | | | | | |



PICTURE TIME: 9:03 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The northern extent of a region of trade convergence grazed the Marianas overnight through this morning. One towering thunderstorm, in particular, left behind mostly cloudy skies with isolated to scattered showers over Guam, while partly cloudy skies with isolated showers lie elsewhere. Moderate to fresh trade winds prevail and buoys and altimetry reveal seas between 5 and 7 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$234. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-8747 or 235-2440. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

| MICRONESIA | | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------|--------|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Cloudy/Wind | 30 / 26 °F | |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 28 / 25 °F | |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 29 / 26 °F | |
| Chuuk | Scattered Thunderstorms | 30 / 26 °F | |
| Pohnpei | Scattered Thunderstorms | 29 / 26 °F | |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 29 / 27 °F | |
| Majuro | Scattered Thunderstorms | 29 / 26 °F | |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| Today | 05:56 AM | 18:33 PM |
| Wednesday | 05:56 AM | 18:33 PM |
| Thursday | 05:55 AM | 18:33 PM |
| Friday | 05:54 AM | 18:34 PM |
| Saturday | 05:54 AM | 18:34 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today | 02:49 | 14:41 PM | - |
| Wednesday | 03:30 | 15:34 PM | - |
| Thursday | 04:08 | 16:25 PM | - |
| Friday | 04:45 | 17:15 PM | - |
| Saturday | 05:22 | 18:05 PM | - |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|------------------|-------------------|------------|--------|
| Auckland | Mostly Sunny | 21 / 14 °F | |
| Beijing | Sunny | 23 / 9 °F | |
| Hong Kong | Partly Cloudy | 28 / 25 °F | |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | 28 / 22 °F | |
| London | Mostly Sunny | 16 / 5 °F | |
| Los Angeles | Partly Cloudy | 26 / 13 °F | |
| Manila | PM Thunderstorms | 35 / 27 °F | |
| Melbourne | Mostly Cloudy | 28 / 12 °F | |
| Miami | Mostly Sunny | 27 / 23 °F | |
| New York | Cloudy | 21 / 9 °F | |
| Osaka | Showers | 26 / 21 °F | |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | 18 / 6 °F | |
| Busan | Rain/Thunder/Wind | 20 / 14 °F | |
| Rome | Sunny | 21 / 8 °F | |
| Salem | Mostly Sunny | 29 / 17 °F | |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | 17 / 9 °F | |
| Seoul | Cloudy | 27 / 10 °F | |
| Tokyo | AM Light Rain | 24 / 21 °F | |
| Washington, DC | PM Showers | 22 / 8 °F | |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | | FEET |
|----------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| 05:09 AM | High Tide | 1.93 | |
| 11:13 AM | Low Tide | 0.99 | |
| 4:13 PM | High Tide | 1.63 | |
| 10:55 PM | Low Tide | 0.26 | |

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 28, 2022

| DEPARTURES | | | | | ARRIVALS | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------|---------|---------------------|--|----------------------|---------|----------|------------------|--|--|--|
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | | | | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | | | | | | |
| UA117 | 6:40AM | 7:20AM | 1, 3, 5 | | UA116 | 5:00AM | 5:45AM | 1, 3, 5 | | | |
| UA117 | 9:50AM | 10:35AM | 2, 4, 6, 7 | | UA116 | 8:00AM | 8:45AM | 6, 7 | | | |
| | | | | | UA174 | 8:00AM | 8:45AM | 2, 4 | | | |
| GUAM-MANILA (MNL) | | | | | MANILA (MNL)-GUAM | | | | | | |
| PR 111 | 6:35AM | 8:35AM | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 | | R110 | 10:35PM | 4:35AM+1 | 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 | | | |
| UA193 | 7:05PM | 10:55PM | 5 via Palau | | UA184 | 10:25PM | 4:20AM+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 | | | |
| UA183 | 7:10PM | 9:10PM | Daily | | UA192 | 10:25PM | 6:05AM+1 | 5 via Palau | | | |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | | | UA184 | 11:50PM | 5:40AM+1 | 5 | | | |
| UA117/183 | 6:40AM | 9:10PM | 1, 3, 5 via Guam | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | | | | |
| UA117/193 | 6:40AM | 10:55PM | 5 via Guam, Palau | | UA184/116 | 10:40pm | 6:16am+1 | 5 via Guam | | | |
| UA117/183 | 9:50AM | 9:10PM | 2, 4, 6, 7 via Guam | | UA184/174 | 10:40pm | 8:46am+1 | 2 via Guam | | | |
| SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN) | | | | | UA184/116 | 10:55pm | 6:16am+1 | 1, 3 via Guam | | | |
| RS112 | 3:15PM | 7:00PM | 3, 6 | | UA184/174 | 10:55pm | 8:46am+1 | 4, 7 via Guam | | | |
| TW9308 | 3:30PM | 7:20PM | 4, 7 | | UA184/116 | 10:55pm | 8:46am+1 | 6 via Guam | | | |
| 7C3405 | 3:30PM | 7:25PM | 6 | | INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | | | | |
| 7C3405 | 3:50PM | 7:45PM | 3 | | RS111 | 8:15AM | 1:35PM | 3, 6 | | | |
| OZ624 | 4:00PM | 7:40PM | 3, 6 | | 7C3406 | 8:30AM | 2:10PM | 6 | | | |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) | | | | | 7C3406 | 8:50AM | 2:30PM | 3 | | | |
| 7C3451 | 2:00PM | 5:20PM | 3, 7 | | TW9307 | 9:00AM | 2:30PM | 4, 7 | | | |
| | | | | | OZ623 | 9:00AM | 2:30PM | 3, 6 | | | |
| | | | | | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN | | | | | | |
| | | | | | 7C3452 | 8:00AM | 1:00PM | 3, 7 | | | |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

| SAIPAN TO ROTA | | | | | 1204 | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily | |
|------------------|-----------|---------|--------------------------|--|------------------|-----------|---------|-------------------------|--|
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | | 1205 | 11:00 | 11:15 | Daily | |
| 1301 | 8:30AM | 9:00AM | Daily | | 1206 | 12:00 | 12:15 | Temporarily Unavailable | |
| 1302 | 11:00AM | 11:30AM | Daily | | 1207 | 13:00 | 13:15 | Temporarily Unavailable | |
| 1303 | 1:30PM | 2:00PM | Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily | | 1208 | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily | |
| 1304 | 3:30PM | 4:00PM | Daily | | 1209 | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily | |
| ROTA TO SAIPAN | | | | | 1210 | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | | 1211 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily | |
| 3101 | 9:30AM | 10:00AM | Daily | | 1212 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Temporarily Unavailable | |
| 3102 | 12:00AM | 12:30AM | Daily | | TINIAN TO SAIPAN | | | | |
| 3103 | 1:30PM | 3:00PM | Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily | | FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | |
| 3104 | 4:30PM | 5:00PM | Daily | | 2101 | 7:30 | 7:45 | Temporarily Unavailable | |
| ROTA TO GUAM | | | | | 2102 | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | | 2103 | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily | |
| 3401 | 12:15 | 12:45 | Temporarily Unavailable | | 2104 | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily | |
| GUAM TO ROTA | | | | | 2105 | 11:30 | 11:45 | Daily | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | | 2106 | 12:30 | 12:45 | Temporarily Unavailable | |
| 4301 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Temporarily Unavailable | | 2107 | 13:30 | 13:45 | Temporarily Unavailable | |
| SAIPAN TO TINIAN | | | | | 2108 | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | | 2109 | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily | |
| 1201 | 7:00 | 7:15 | Temporarily Unavailable | | 2110 | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily | |
| 1202 | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily | | 2111 | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily | |
| 1203 | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily | | 2112 | 18:30 | 18:45 | Temporarily Unavailable | |

Business

Afraid to fly with unmasked passengers? Call your airline

DALLAS (AP)—Airlines say they are offering options—including refunds in some cases—for people worried about flying now that other passengers aren't required to wear face masks.

However, the airlines aren't providing many details. Customers could find themselves at the mercy of workers at airline customer-service centers.

Many people who will be flying in the next few weeks bought their tickets before a federal judge in Florida on Monday struck down the requirement to wear a mask in airports and during flights. That requirement, designed to limit the spread of COVID-19, was due to expire anyway on May 3.

United Airlines CEO Scott Kirby said his airline will be

flexible with people who have a weak immune system or are concerned about mask-option-al flying for any other reason.

"We are working with those customers ... to find another option, give them a credit, or if they just don't ever want to fly again, (we are) actually willing to give them a refund," Kirby told NBC.

A United spokesman said

customers except those on the lowest-priced "basic economy" fares can delay their travel plans for any reason with no extra fee. He said passengers with special circumstances should call the airline's customer-service number.

American Airlines CEO Robert Isom said Thursday that the airline hasn't fielded many refund requests yet.

"But like we do in all these events, we are taking a look at our policies and ... asking them to get in touch with our reservations office, and we will make sure that we accommodate them in an appropriate fashion," Isom said.

An American spokeswoman pointed to the airline's policy, which allows refunds for refundable tickets—those usually cost more—and credit for the value of unused non-refundable tickets. However, people who bought "basic economy" tickets since April 1 are not entitled to a refund or to change their ticket.

A Delta Air Lines spokesman said customers who wish to cancel a trip should contact the airline. Decisions about how to handle those requests are made on a case-by-case basis, he said.

Southwest, Alaska, JetBlue, Spirit and Frontier did not reply to inquiries.

On Thursday, the Justice Department said it would appeal the Florida judge's ruling striking down the mask mandate, which was put in place by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and enforced by the Transportation Security Administration.

However, as of late Friday afternoon the administration still had not asked any court for an emergency stay of the Florida ruling. Legal experts said the White House appeared mostly interested in appealing the Florida ruling to prevent it from becoming a precedent that could limit the CDC's power to impose pandemic-related measures in the future.

Sanctions hit Russian economy, although Putin says otherwise

NEW YORK (AP)—Nearly two months into the Russian-Ukraine war, the Kremlin has taken extraordinary steps to blunt an economic counteroffensive from the West. While Russia can claim some symbolic victories, the full impact of Western sanctions is starting to be felt in very real ways.

As the West moved to cut off Russia's access to its foreign reserves, limit imports of key technologies and take other restrictive actions, the Kremlin launched some drastic measures to protect the economy. Those included hiking interest rates to as high as 20%, instituting capital controls and forcing Russian business to convert their profits into rubles.

As a result, the value of the

ruble has recovered after an initial plunge, and last week the central bank reversed part of its interest rate increase. Russian President Vladimir Putin felt emboldened and proclaimed—evoking World War II imagery—that the country had withstood the West's "blitz" of sanctions.

"The government wants to paint a picture that things are not as bad as they actually are," said Michael Alexeev, an economics professor at Indiana University who has studied Russia's economy in its transition after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

A closer look, however, shows that the sanctions are taking a bite out of Russia's economy:—The country is enduring its worst bout of in-

flation in two decades. Rosstat, the state's economic statistics agency, said inflation last month hit 17.3%, the highest level since 2002. By comparison, the International Monetary Fund expects consumer prices in developing countries to rise 8.7% this year, up from 5.9% last year.

Some Russian companies have been forced to shut down. Several reports say a tank manufacturer had to stop production due to a lack of parts. U.S. officials point to the closing of Lada auto plants—a brand made by the Russian company Avtovaz and majority-owned by French automaker Renault—as a sign of sanctions having an effect.

Moscow's mayor says the city is looking at 200,000 job

losses from foreign companies shutting down operations. More than 300 companies have pulled out, and international supply chains have largely shut down after container company Maersk, UPS, DHL and other transportation firms exited Russia.

Russia is facing a historic default on its bonds, which will likely freeze the country out of the debt markets for years.

Meanwhile, Treasury officials and most economists urge patience, saying that sanctions take months to have their full effect. If Russia can't get appropriate amounts of capital, parts or supplies over time, that will cause even more factories and businesses to shut down, leading to higher unemployment.

County grants approval for Amazon's helix-shaped HQ tower

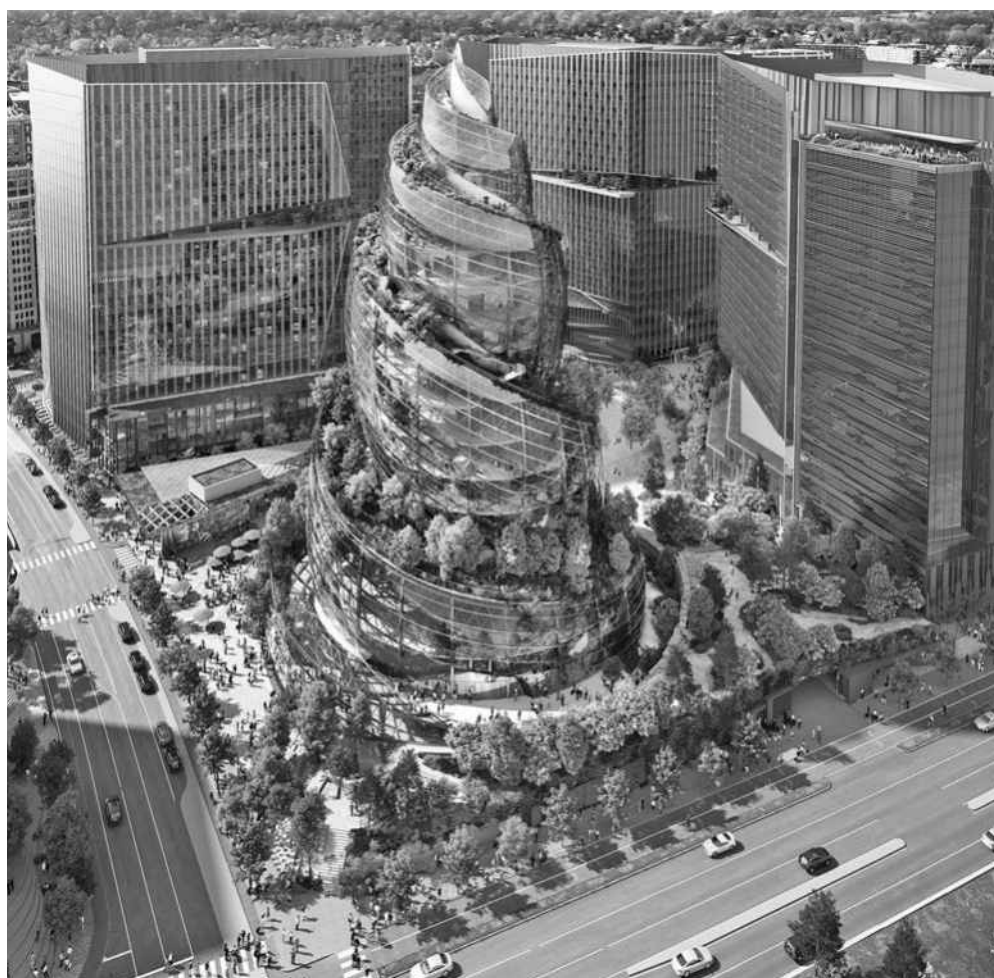
FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP)—The Arlington County Board gave unanimous approval Saturday to Amazon's plans to build a unique, helix-shaped tower as the centerpiece of its emerging second headquarters in northern Virginia.

Amazon announced the plans in February 2021 for the eye-catching, 350-foot tower to anchor the second phase of its redevelopment plans. The new office towers will support a second headquarters for Amazon that is expected to welcome more than 25,000 workers when it's complete.

The helix is one of several office towers granted approval, but the helix stands out. The spiral design features a walkable ramp wrapping around the building with trees and greenery planted to resemble a mountain hike.

Amazon has said the building is designed to help people connect to nature, and the outdoor mountain climb will be open to the public on weekends.

Since then, the plans have gone through the famously thorough review process of Arlington County, including numerous public hearings. Earlier this month, the county planning commission voted 9-0 to support the project.



This artist rendering provided by Amazon shows the next phase of the company's headquarters redevelopment to be built in Arlington, Va.

On Saturday, the County Board voted 5-0 to approve the plans. They also include park space and will accommodate a community high school, along with ground level retail.

Amazon has said it hopes to complete the project in 2025.

Because skyscrapers are banned in the District of Columbia, and the Amazon buildings will be among the

tallest in Arlington County, from some vantage points the helix will dominate the region's skyline like no building other than the Washington Monument.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Mississippi set to become final state with equal pay law

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Mississippi will become the final state with a law requiring equal pay for equal work by women and men. Republican Gov. Tate Reeves signed House Bill 770 on Wednesday, and it will become law July 1. A 1963 federal law requires equal pay for equal work, but Mississippi has the only state without its own law since Alabama enacted one in 2019. The Mississippi law says a lawsuit must be filed within two years of when a worker "knew or should have known" about pay discrepancies. If the pay discrimination lawsuit is successful, the employer would have to increase wages of the lower-paid worker rather than decrease wages of the higher-paid one, said House Judiciary A Committee Chairwoman Angela Cockerham, an independent from Magnolia who pushed for the legislation.

Amazon union could face a tough road ahead after victory

NEW YORK (AP)—In the aftermath of their hard-won labor victory, Amazon workers in the New York City borough of Staten Island popped Champagne, cheered their victory and danced in celebration. But their jovial attitude will be tested by a company that seems likely to drag its feet to the bargaining table. Among other things, the nascent Amazon Labor Union, or ALU, has said it wants longer breaks for warehouse employees, more time off and a dramatically higher minimum hourly wage of \$30, up from just over \$18 an hour

now at the Staten Island facility. To achieve anything close to that, the grassroots union would need to negotiate a contract with Amazon that both sides, as well as union members, agree on. Doing so could prove difficult. Amazon is seeking to overturn the election, having argued in a filing with the National Labor Relations Board this month that the vote was tainted by organizers and by the board's regional office in Brooklyn that oversaw the election.

Bird flu drives free-range hens indoors to protect poultry

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Is it OK for free-range chickens to not range freely? That's a question free-range egg producers have been pondering lately as they try to be open about their product while also protecting chickens from a highly infectious bird flu that has resulted in the death of roughly 28 million poultry birds across the country. The U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends that chickens be moved indoors to protect against the disease, but while some are keeping their hens inside, not everyone agrees. John Brunnquell, the CEO of Indiana-based Egg Innovations, which contracts with more than 50 farms in five states to produce free-range and pasture-raised eggs, said any of his chickens in states with bird flu cases will stay in "confinement mode" until the risk passes. "We will keep them confined at least until early June," Brunnquell said. "If we go four weeks with no more commercial breakouts then we'll look to get the girls back out."

Nation

Nebraska wildfires kill ex-fire chief, hurt 15 firefighters

CAMBRIDGE, Neb. (AP)—Wind-driven wildfires sweeping through parts of Nebraska killed a retired fire chief and injured at least 15 firefighters, authorities said Sunday.

The man who died Friday night was a retired Cambridge fire chief who was working with firefighters as a spotter in Red Willow County in

the southwestern corner of the state. That fire had burned more than 78 square miles (202 square kilometers) in Red Willow, Furnas and Frontier counties by Sunday afternoon.

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency said firefighters were still working to contain that large fire Sunday, and officials didn't have an es-

timate of how much of it had been contained.

Alyssa Sanders, with NEMA, said 66-year-old John P. Trumble, of Arapahoe, was overcome by smoke and fire after his vehicle left the road Friday because of poor visibility from smoke and dust. His body was found early Saturday.

At least 15 firefighters have

been injured battling the blazes, including five who were hurt in the fire that killed Trumble, but a spokeswoman said the state agency didn't have details about their injuries.

Blazes have been reported in 14 counties in around the state since Friday, including Perkins, Dundy, Burt, Butler, Scotts Bluff, Cheyenne, Duple, Blaine,

Cherry, Brown and Thomas counties. The state agency said those other fires had either been extinguished or mostly contained by Sunday afternoon.

The agency didn't provide estimates of the total area that had been burned by all the fires or the number of homes or other structures that had been destroyed. Roughly 100 calves

were killed when one fire in Rising City burned several calving sheds, and at least three fire trucks were damaged or destroyed in the fires.

Sanders said her agency didn't have all of the details about the fires because local fire departments were managing the response to most of them.

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has signed emergency declarations as 20 wildfires continued to burn Sunday in nearly half of the state's drought-stricken 33 counties.

One wildfire in northern New Mexico that started April 6 merged with a newer fire Saturday to form the largest blaze in the state, leading to widespread evacuations in Mora and San Miguel counties. That fire was at 84 square miles (217 square kilometers) Sunday and 12% contained.

An uncontained wind-driven wildfire in northern New Mexico that began April 17 had charred 81 square miles (209 square kilometers) of ponderosa pine, oak brush and grass by Sunday morning north of Ocate, an unincorporated community in Mora County.

Meanwhile in Arizona, some residents forced to evacuate due to a wildfire near Flagstaff were allowed to re-

Emergency declaration for multiple wildfires in New Mexico



BILL WELLS VIA AP

This Wednesday April 20, 2022, photo provided by Bill Wells shows his home on the outskirts of Flagstaff, Ariz., destroyed by a wildfire on Tuesday, April 19, 2022. The wind-whipped wildfire has forced the evacuation of hundreds of homes and animals.

turn home Sunday morning.

In Nebraska, authorities said wind-driven wildfires

sweeping through parts of the state killed a retired Cambridge fire chief and injured at

least 11 firefighters.

Winds and temperatures in New Mexico diminished

Saturday but remained strong enough to still fan fires. Dozens of evacuation orders re-

mained in place.

Fire officials were expecting the northern wildfires to slow Sunday as cloud and smoke cover moves in, allowing the forests to retain more moisture. But they added that the interior portions of the fires could show moderate to extreme behavior, which could threaten structures in those areas.

More than 200 structures have been charred by the wildfires thus far and an additional 900 remain threatened, Lujan Grisham said.

Fire management officials said an exact damage count was unclear because it's still too dangerous for crews to go in and look at all the homes that have been lost.

"We do not know the magnitude of the structure loss. We don't even know the areas where most homes made it through the fire, where homes haven't been damaged or anything like that," said operation sections chief Jayson Coil.



ACROSS THE NATION

15 migrants, driver injured after chase with Texas deputies

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Fifteen migrants and another individual were injured after the truck they were in rolled over following a high-speed chase with Texas deputies on Sunday, according to authorities. A deputy had pulled over the truck around 8 a.m. in Medina County, located west of San Antonio, when one person fled the vehicle before it sped off, according to the Medina County Sheriff's Office. The chase continued into nearby Bexar County, where the driver lost control and the truck rolled over several times. Fifteen migrants were found in the truck as well as a driver who is from Austin. Two people were taken by helicopter to a San Antonio hospital and the other individuals in the truck were transported by ambulance, according to authorities. Officials say two of the individuals were in critical condition. The conditions of the others were not immediately known. Authorities say

the driver, whose name was not immediately released and had a gun in the truck, is facing several charges.

Video records deputy's rescue of toddler from apartment fire

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—A sheriff's deputy in Florida climbed up a balcony and plucked a 1-year-old girl to safety from a third-story apartment that had caught fire, the dramatic rescue captured on the deputy's body-worn camera. Deputy William Puzynski climbed to the second-floor balcony early Saturday and asked the mother to hand off the baby in diapers as flames shot from the apartment one floor above. He then brought the baby down before the mother and grandmother were subsequently rescued by firefighters. The video posted online captures Puzynski telling the woman "hand me the baby, hand me the baby. We are coming," as he goes up and balances himself on the railing before she extends the crying baby to him. "Please, come get me," she pleads afterward. Firefight-

ers using a ladder brought the mother and grandmother down from the third-floor apartment safely. They also evacuated other residents while responding to the fire at an apartment building in Orlando. The Orange County Fire Rescue said the fire caused extensive damage with 24 units impacted. The camera that recorded the infant's rescue was attached to Puzynski's vest, which he had taken off before climbing up the building.

Retrial to begin in Texas for man charged with killing 18

DALLAS (AP)—The retrial of a man charged with killing 18 older women in the Dallas area over a two-year span is set to begin Monday, after the first jury to hear a case against him deadlocked. Billy Chemirmir, 49, faces life in prison without parole if he's convicted of capital murder in the smothering of 81-year-old Lu Thi Harris. Prosecutors have said he followed the widow home from Walmart, killed her, and stole her jewelry and cash. Chemirmir faces capital

murder charges in all 18 of the women's deaths—13 in Dallas County and five in nearby Collin County. However, he's currently only scheduled to stand trial in the death of Harris. Dallas County District Attorney John Creuzot, who isn't seeking the death penalty for Harris' killing, has said he plans to try Chemirmir for at least one more death, though he hasn't said whose. Chemirmir has maintained that he's innocent.

Police: 5 teens shot; 2 carjack vehicle to get to hospital

ATLANTA (AP)—Five teenagers were shot in a fight outside a diner in downtown Atlanta, and two of them took a vehicle at gunpoint to get to a hospital, police said. Two females and three males, between the ages of 15 and 19, were wounded late Saturday outside a Waffle House near Centennial Olympic Park, Deputy Chief Timothy Peek told reporters. Police did not know what started the fight. Police said two of the males carjacked a vehicle from a valet

parking attendant, and the other three were at the scene when officers arrived. All five were reported in stable condition, police said. A news release said the two who drove themselves to the hospital have been charged with carjacking.

Stuck in Florida wetlands, woman is rescued by helicopter

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP)—Authorities say they were able to rescue a woman by helicopter after she was stuck in the vast marshland of a Florida state park. Various agencies were deployed to the 11,000-acre (4,450-hectare) Estero Bay Preserve State Park on the Gulf Coast south of Fort Myers. The Iona McGregor Fire District says the woman was out hiking with her husband Friday, but the man had gotten tired and had decided to return while she kept going and got lost. After hours of searching, the woman was found in one of the deepest, marshiest areas of the preserve. She was overall well but had to be taken out by helicopter and to be

checked at a local hospital.

ID released as search continues for missing Texas Guardsman

EAGLE PASS, Texas (AP)—The name of a Texas National Guard member who remains missing after going into the river along the U.S.-Mexico border to help two migrants who appeared to be drowning was released on Sunday by officials. The Texas Military Department identified the missing Guard member as Specialist Bishop E. Evans, 22, from Arlington. Evans went missing on Friday as he jumped into the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass along the U.S.-Mexico border in a section of the river known to have strong currents. Evans is assigned to A Battery, 4-133 Field Artillery Regiment in New Braunfels, the Texas Military Department said in a statement. He joined the Texas Army National Guard in May 2019. Evans left Texas but returned in 2020 after taking part in Operation Spartan Shield in Kuwait.

World

US promises new aid for Ukraine in fight against Russia

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Top American officials promised Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hundreds of millions of dollars in new aid during the highest-level U.S. visit to Ukraine since

the start of the Russian invasion two months earlier, while Britain said Monday that Moscow has yet to achieve a significant breakthrough in its offensive in the eastern industrial heart-

land of the country.

In meetings with Zelenskyy in Kyiv, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the United States had approved a \$165 million sale of ammunition for Ukraine's war effort, along with more than \$300 million in foreign military financing.

The pledges came Sunday, the 60th day since the start of the invasion, as Ukraine

pressed the West for more powerful weapons against Russia's campaign in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine, where Moscow's forces sought to dislodge the last Ukrainian troops in the battered port of Mariupol.

Britain's Ministry of Defense said Monday that Ukrainian troops holed up in a steel plant in the strategic city were tying down Russian forces, and keeping them from being added to

the offensive elsewhere in the Donbas.

"Many Russian units remain fixed in the city and cannot be redeployed," the ministry said in a statement posted on Twitter. "Ukraine's defense of Mariupol has also exhausted many Russian units and reduced their combat effectiveness."

The ministry added that, so far, Russia has only made "minor advances in some areas since shifting its focus to

fully occupying the Donbas."

"Without sufficient logistical and combat support enablers in place, Russia has yet to achieve a significant breakthrough," the ministry said.

On the diplomatic front, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was scheduled to travel to Turkey on Monday and then Moscow and Kyiv. Zelenskyy said it was a mistake for Guterres to visit Russia before Ukraine.

France's Macron wins but far-right gains

PARIS (AP)—French President Emmanuel Macron comfortably won a second term Sunday, triggering relief among allies that the nuclear-armed power won't abruptly shift course in the midst of the war in Ukraine from



Macron

European Union and NATO efforts to punish and contain Russia's military expansionism.

The second five-year term for the 44-year-old centrist spared France and Europe from the seismic upheaval of having firebrand populist Marine Le Pen at the helm, Macron's presidential run-off challenger who quickly conceded defeat but still scored her best-ever electoral showing.

Acknowledging that "numerous" voters cast ballots

for him simply to keep out the fiercely nationalist far-right Le Pen, Macron pledged to reunite the country that is "filled with so many doubts, so many divisions" and work to assuage the anger of French voters that

fed Le Pen's campaign.

"No one will be left by the side of the road," Macron said in a victory speech against the backdrop of the Eiffel Tower and a projection of the blue-white-and-red tricolor French flag. He was cheered by several hundred supporters who happily waved French and EU flags.

"We have a lot to do and the war in Ukraine reminds us that we are going through tragic times where France must make its voice heard," Macron said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Child's body found after tour boat sank in Japan's far north

TOKYO (AP)—Rescuers searching since a tour boat carrying 26 people apparently sank off far northeastern Japan have found the body of an 11th victim a child as questions intensify about why the vessel sailed in rough weather at a known hazardous location. The child was found late Sunday and later confirmed dead, the Coast Guard said Monday. The bodies of 10 victims seven men and three women were found earlier Sunday. The Kazu 1 with two crew was taking 24 passengers, including two children, on a scenic tour at Shiretoko National Park on the northern side of Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island, when it sent a distress call Saturday afternoon saying it was sinking.

2 suspects sought as 100 die in Nigeria oil refinery blast

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—At least 100 people may have died in an explosion at an illegal oil refinery in southeast Nigeria, a local oil official said Sunday as the search intensified for bodies at the site and for two people suspected of being involved in the blast. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, in a statement, called the explosion

a "catastrophe and a national disaster." The explosion Friday night at the facility in Ohaji-Egbema local government area in Imo state was triggered by a fire at two fuel storage areas where more than 100 people worked, state officials told The Associated Press.

Nine soldiers among 15 killed in Burkina Faso's north

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP)—Fifteen people were killed, including nine soldiers, in coordinated jihadi attacks in northern Burkina Faso on Sunday, the army said. Two military detachments, in Gaskinde and Pobe Mengao in Soum province in the Sahel region were hit by "terrorists" Sunday morning, wounding more than two dozen people, said the army in a

statement. Security operations are underway in both areas, it said. The attacks are the latest in a series of increased violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic state across the country that's killed thousands and displaced 2 million people. Earlier this month, 16 soldiers were killed in the center-north region and at least 40 security forces were killed in the last two weeks of March, according to an internal security report for aid groups seen by The Associated Press.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Francisco K. Arurang

Lovingly Known As Cisco Or Frank



*Was born on February 04, 1969
and went to his new home to meet
our Lord on April 24, 2022*

In his new life, †Francisco K. Arurang will be reunited with his:

Parents: †Henry T. and †Elena K. Arurang

Parents In-law: †Jesus S. and †Gaudelia M. Pua

Brother: †Flory K. Arurang

Sister: †Rebecca K. Arurang

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his

Wife: Pauline P. Arurang

Children: Hank Lugufel P. Arurang, Jr.
Conseco John P. Arurang
Chicko Hensus and Jeromaln Becky S. Arurang

Siblings: Francisca A. and Pedro LG. Cruz
Thellia Arurang / Joseph Peter Palacios
(Elena, Joefrain, Joelia, and Joseph Peter, Jr)
Peter Jr. A. Cruz / Michelle C. Cruz
(Caleb Peter, Aiden Vaughn, Elijah Josiah
and Kaydence Michelle)
Patrick A. and Angela C. Cruz (Mikyla Skye Cabrera)
Flora K. Arurang

Brothers In-Law and Family

Rudolfo M. Pua / Irene C. Pua (Sheldeen Maria /Thomas Jose I. Yiftheg [Ehprirene, Michale Rudolfo, Therese Jacinta,
Joseph Ramon Sheldon, Benedict Peter Paul and Francisco], Sharmaine Neliga Lulugumei, Shaneese Trindelia,
Shenille Haruno, Shizelle Rudene, Maria Ramona, and Rudolfo Jr.)

Loran M. Pua (Melina R. / Manning M. Salas [Zyrah Tehani])

Frederico M. Pua / Ning L. Pua (Angelia)

Remedio Margarita Pua

Norbert M. Pua / Gayle N. Pua (Louvicki Francile, Jesus Marino, Jovina Cecilia, Levonnie Delia)

Juan George M. Pua / Silva Frances C. Celis (Elphidia Deliana, Enrique, Juan George II, Hayashi Daniel)

He will also be greatly missed by his numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

Beginning April 26 - May 1st, daily mass of intention is offered at 6:00pm, followed by the rosary at 7:00pm at Santa Soledad Church.

Mass of Christian Burial will be announced at a later date.



Your thoughts and prayers are sincerely appreciated.

Thank you yan Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Maa'se ginen I famagu'on Francisco K. Arurang

Overdrive

By CASEY WILLIAMS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Imagine being on vacation with friends at a lake house, packing up to go home, lots of chaos with adults and children, vehicles moving in the driveway, luggage strewn about, and suddenly realizing you do not know where your son is.

"I just immediately knew, bolted for the door," said Amber Rollins, director of Kids and Car Safety (KidsAndCars.org), a research and advocacy organization. "My two-year-old was behind a car and the driver would not have seen him. There is danger everywhere you turn. I was lucky enough to get there in time."

Not every parent gets there in time. According to Parents.com, about 400 children under age 15 are killed each year after being hit by a vehicle. The CDC reports that more than 90,000 children are injured in auto-related accidents. As the parent of an 8-year-old daughter, my heart goes out to their families. More can be done to protect our kids in and around automobiles.

No-brainer safety

When I was a kid, my parents threw sleeping bags in the back of our station wagon so my sister and I could play and nap. That would be illegal now—not that most parents would countenance the idea, given all we've learned since then.

What's the best thing parents can do to keep kids safe?

"It's a no-brainer," Rollins said. "Make sure they are in proper restraint for their age and size and buckled in correctly on every drive."

And if you're in a hurry to get your growing kid to the next and often easier-to-use seat, pump the brakes.



KIDS AND CAR SAFETY/TNS

As our vehicles have grown taller and bulkier, the problem of "front-overs," or driving forward over an unseen child, increased. You should walk-around your vehicle every time you drive it, but technology like around-view "bird's eye" camera systems can also prevent accidents.

"Parents are eager to move to the next stage, but it's actually a demotion of safety," Rollins continued. "You can't keep kids in safety seats forever, but leave them in until they are maxed out with height and weight. The overwhelming majority are installed incorrectly. Your local police and fire department can direct you to an instructor."

It's not necessary to buy the most expensive seat. My daughter had a red racing-style seat because she's cool like that, but all seats are federally regulated to meet standards. Just be sure to try them out in your car before you commit, and read the manual thoroughly to understand your seat's specific rules for installation.

Also consider the car your seat goes into. Every car is different, so reach into the rear

cushions to find the car seat attachment loops. Many European cars have plugs that guide in the seat clips, but others will have you reaching deep into the cushions to find the anchors. Easier is better.

New dangers await

Keeping children safe inside of vehicles is the best thing you can do, but there are new dangers—and new technologies—to overcome them.

"We're aware of blind zones behind, but they are also in front where you can't see a kid up to 15 feet ahead," Rollins said. "We did an experiment where we placed 18 kids in front of an SUV and the driver could not see them! People believe they can see what's in front of them, but they can't."

As our vehicles have grown taller and bulkier, the problem

of "front-overs," or driving forward over an unseen child, increased. You should walk around your vehicle every time you drive it, but technology like around-view "bird's eye" camera systems can also prevent accidents. Rear cameras have been mandated since 2018, but front cameras have not. Many of today's SUVs offer a switch-activated front trail camera that can be used to check for children before driving away.

It's also become common for vehicles to have forward-looking cameras, radar or LIDAR to anticipate a collision and apply the brakes. These systems, commonly known as automatic emergency braking (AEB), are not created equal. Older systems were designed to recognize another vehicle to avoid a serious collision but

were not calibrated to detect a child, cyclist or pedestrian. The newest systems that are gaining wide acceptance can. Parents should ask about the sophistication of the AEB system when shopping for a new vehicle and choose one that detects pedestrians.

A recent study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) proves the point. When IIHS made pedestrian AEB a requirement for its coveted TOP SAFETY PICK and TOP SAFETY PICK+ ratings in 2019, only 60% of vehicles had the technology available and only 20% earned the highest rating. By 2021, pedestrian AEB is available in 90% of models. It has become the standard you should demand.

Childproof your ride

Dangers lurk inside your ve-

hicle, too. Every summer, we learn about children who were either left in vehicles or accidentally locked themselves in them. In the hot sun, it only takes minutes for kids to suffer heatstroke. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recommends that you keep parked vehicles locked at all times, teach children that vehicles are not playgrounds and never leave a child in a vehicle while running errands. Rolling down windows does little to keep a vehicle cool, even in the shade.

Fortunately, there's technology to help parents remember their offspring in the back seat. I know from experience that child safety alert systems keep parents from leaving their children unattended—on purpose or accidentally. But, like other safety systems, they are of varying levels of sophistication. The most common rely on door sensors to detect a door opened and assume a child entered the rear, while more advanced versions, like the latest employed by Hyundai/Kia, use seat sensors and motion detectors.

Going further, the Korean automakers commonly employ their Safe Exit Assist system that taps blind spot sensors to detect cars coming alongside the vehicle and prevents the doors from opening into fast traffic. Kids should always be taught to exit curbside, but these systems provide an additional margin of safety just in case. When buying a vehicle, request these systems.

In the end, the best way to prevent children getting hurt in and around automobiles is for their caretakers to keep their minds engaged.

"One thing to keep children safe is to focus on vehicle safety and make that a priority," Rollins said. "Tragedies happen in split seconds."

MOTORMOUTH: Ethanol and fuel economy

Q: President Joe Biden recently announced an expansion of the use of ethanol added gasoline. Any benefits or drawbacks? It is usually a few cents cheaper, but I wonder if I get as good mileage with the blend.

A: A higher alcohol content may lower fuel economy since alcohol contains less energy—lower BTU rating. Bumping the amount of alcohol, mostly made from corn, could impact food prices.

Q: Saw the question about rain beading on the windows. I wonder if he goes through the automatic car wash. Most use a spray wax near the end of the cycle and when it does, it covers the whole

car—hood, roof, sides and yes, windows.

A: Good point. I am passing it along.

Q: My friend insists on using the parking brake on his 2021 Kia because he says it will protect the transmission. I think it's unnecessary; it's all flat here, no hills. Does this really help the transmission?

A: In the past I would have agreed to using the parking brakes all the time. That's because they were applied via cables that could rust. When that happens, the rusty cables may not move within the cable housings and, if needed when parking on an incline, the brakes may not apply. But with Kia's electric parking

brakes, there are no concerns about cables. There will be no transmission issues. I still suggest using the parking brakes.

Q: For many years I have added fuel injector cleaner to gas, usually every three to six months. My confusion is two-fold: Does it do anything and how to choose? The shelf displaying injector cleaners shows bottles of various volume and ranging in price from \$2 to \$15. How do you decide which one to buy under the assumption that it does clean the injectors? And what is the cleaner made of?

A: Back in the 1990s, several car makers, especially BMW, instructed owners and mechanics to occasion-

ally add Techron to the gas to prevent intake valve deposits. It contains a detergent. If you choose top-tier gasoline you needn't add additional stuff to your tank because it already exceeds the EPA's standard detergent requirement. I can't address for the other products' chemistry but if you want to dig deep, look up the product's MSDS (material safety data sheet) for the chemicals used.

Q: As I write this my 2015 GMC Terrain with only 20,000 miles sits in the shop with at least \$2,000 in damage. The squirrel/s chewed into my HVAC housing, some wires, (engine light) and windshield wiper motor (no wipers), the dash has to come

By BOB WEBER

Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



out, etc. Do you or any readers know of a way to deter these critters from re-invading my engine compartment?

A: I have heard of things ranging from high-tech ultrasonic devices to lowly mothballs. I have yet to find anything

that is 100 percent effective. After the parts are replaced, wrap them with Honda rodent proof tape to prevent a critter chewing encore. Meanwhile, check with your insurance company. Your comprehensive coverage may ease the bill.

Life & Style

Teen son struggles after family's move to new state

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: Because of frustration with our state's substantial COVID restrictions and our teen son's struggles with remote learning, we moved to another state. At the time, our son was excited to move (we kept asking him to make sure). However, we are now nearly through the school year and he still hasn't made new friends. He's depressed and wants to move back.

He plays a sport and has a part-time job, but neither have helped. My husband and I love it here. In fact, our son loves everything except his lack of a social life (beyond texting, FaceTiming and playing video games with his old friends).

We work from home, so it would be an option for us to temporarily return so he can finish his remaining two years of high school in our original state. He has always been very social, so we are surprised he hasn't made new friends. Should we push him to keep trying? Or is moving back for two years the best for his (and our) mental well-being?

WANTS THE BEST FOR HIM

DEAR WANTS: Moving during one's teens isn't easy, particularly because cliques have already formed. Before packing your bags, talk with your son's teachers and counselors about why he has had problems integrating there. They may be able to offer some important insight.

However, if they cannot do that and you are prepared to make the move when the school term is over, do it. Being treated as an outcast isn't good for anyone's mental health, and while it might benefit your son to learn to adapt, he might do better academically if you put him in a friendlier environment.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have two grown sons who are 13 months apart. The younger, age 44, constantly and viciously degrades his brother in text messages. His anger level is so high that on Christmas Eve two years ago, while he was visiting from a neighboring state with his wife, he declared, "F— this family!" and stalked out, leaving his wife, my husband and me stunned.

Since then, his wife has divorced him, he's been rear-ended in a car wreck due to road rage, lost his job and alienated himself from our family. Online research I've done indicates he's narcissistic. Last month, I texted him my concern that he'd walked off his job, which unleashed an angry tirade against his brother and me.

Everything is our fault, and he badmouths his ex-wife mercilessly. He's an adult, so I can't force him to seek mental health help. Is there anything I can do? We no longer communicate, but a mother can't erase love and concern for her child.

WORN OUT IN WYOMING

DEAR WORN OUT: Your son is deeply troubled, and for that you have my sympathy. For the sake of your own mental health, I strongly recommend you consult a licensed mental health professional. You can't diagnose your son's problem, and neither can I. You also cannot force him into therapy before he's ready to admit that he needs it. Please don't wait to do this. I know you are hurting.

'Bad Guys' bests 'Northman,' Nick Cage at box office

NEW YORK (AP)—On an unusually crowded weekend at movie theaters that featured a pricey Viking epic and Nicolas Cage playing himself, DreamWorks Animation's "The Bad Guys" bested the field, signaling a continued resurgence for family moviegoing after a downturn during the pandemic.

"The Bad Guys," released by Universal Pictures, debuted with \$24 million in U.S. and Canada ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. That came despite steep competition for families from Paramount Pictures' "Sonic The Hedgehog 2," which stayed in second place with \$15.2 million its third week of release. It's grossed \$145.8 million domestically thus far.

The apparent health of family moviegoing is especially good news for Hollywood as

'Golden Girls' shows little age at inaugural fan convention

CHICAGO (AP)—TV shows about sci-fi or comic book fare usually inspire fan conventions—not a sitcom about four women of a certain age living together in Florida.

But sisters Hillary Wasicek, 37, and Melissa Gluck, 43, took this weekend's inaugural "The Golden Girls" convention at Chicago's Navy Pier to heart. Both women, who flew from California, spent Friday in elaborate cosplay as the characters of Dorothy and Blanche. The series has always held a special place for them because of its themes of friends becoming family and inclusiveness. Dressing up in wigs and all, which they previously did on a "Golden Girls" cruise, just enhances the convention experience.

"It's a fun expression of showing respect and appreciation for something you admire. It just makes you feel more a part of it," said Wasicek, who plans to don a different costume every day. "We just met so many people and heard so many stories. It's like 'These are my people.'"

For Gluck, meeting other "Golden Girls" buffs gives her "a greater appreciation of the show itself. Now, I've gotten my son and husband into it."

Golden-Con: Thank You For Being a Fan, which lasts through Sunday, is giving those who adored the NBC sitcom a chance to come together. More than 2,000 attendees are expected to converge. The show, which ran from 1985-1992, starred Bea Arthur, Rue McClanahan, Estelle Getty and Betty White—the last remaining "Golden Girl" who died at age 99 in December. It was

it heads into its lucrative summer season when films like Universal's own "Minions: Rise of Gru" and Walt Disney Co.'s "Lightyear"—the first Pixar film opening in theaters in two years—hope to approach pre-pandemic levels.

"There's reason for being more than cautiously optimistic," said Jim Orr, head of distribution for Universal. "I think audiences this summer are going to be flooding into theaters."

While studios have been hesitant to program many films against each other during the pandemic, the weekend saw a rarity: three new wide releases, all of them well-received, none of them sequels or remakes.

"The Bad Guys," based on Aaron Blabey's children's graphic novel series about a gang of crooked animals

with a Quentin Tarantino-for-kids tone, fared well with critics (85% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and audiences (an "A" CinemaScore). With little family competition until the release of "Lightyear" in mid-June, "The Bad Guys" should play well for weeks. Having first debuted overseas, the animated film has already grossed \$63.1 million internationally.

The weekend's other new releases—Robert Eggers' "The Northman" and the Cage-starring "The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent"—didn't do as well but still fared reasonably solidly in their first weekend.

"Every weekend is a building block in the recovery, but I don't even want to call it a recovery. I think movie theaters are recovered. We're pretty much there," said Paul

Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for ComScore. "Three newcomers were all well-received, and all of them found an audience."

The risks were greatest for Focus Features' "The Northman," which saw its budget balloon beyond \$70 million, a major increase in scale for Eggers, the director of previous indie historical horrors "The Witch" and "The Lighthouse." The film's path to profitability was unlikely even before launching in theaters, but it opened on the higher side of expectations with \$12 million in ticket sales. It added \$6.3 million internationally in 26 territories.

"The Northman" stars Alexander Skarsgard, Anya Taylor-Joy and Nicole Kidman star in a brutal and bloody revenge saga.



Fans of "The Golden Girls" TV show browse a merchandise booth in Chicago, Friday, April 22, 2022. AP

revered for showing their characters, who shared a house in Miami, dealing with issues later in life like ageism, sex and LGBTQ rights.

Like any "con," there are panels and Q&As with people who guest-starred or worked behind the scenes. There is a vendors market with booths carrying "Golden Girls" themed candles, masks, T-shirts and other merch. Fans can snap photos in a recreation of the kitchen where the "girls" always ate cheesecake as well as a giant replica of Sophia's trademark purse. There are also two separate drag queen groups scheduled to perform tributes.

Among the guests are actress Bonnie Bartlett, known for roles on "St. Elsewhere" and "Boy Meets World" (both alongside her husband, actor

William Daniels). She is notable to for playing a stuck-up new friend of Dorothy's in a third-season episode. The two-time Emmy winner, 92, however, did not turn her nose up at the idea of a fan convention.

"I was running around chasing after Betty Grable and people like that," Bartlett said. "I was a big fan when I was a kid. So I understand this. My husband doesn't understand it but I do."

Stan Zimmerman, a TV producer whose second writing job was on the first season, never imagined mingling with fans nearly 40 years later. Being in an industry where popularity is fickle, he's not taking it for granted.

"So I've seen the trajectory of the popularity, but nothing

like what is happening now," Zimmerman said. "It's so cool to see young people that obviously were not even born when we wrote it know every line."

This "Golden Girls" extravaganza was originally just supposed to be a bar trivia night. Zack Hudson, who works in social services for seniors and is a "hard-core fan," approached Brad Balof, his friend and fellow fan about staging an event back in November. They ended up planning to book a community center but then interest outside of the state and even the U.S. intensified.

"All we did was make one announcement on social media," Hudson said. "It just kind of escalated from there. So we pivoted a little bit to welcome as many people as we can. And we're here now."

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



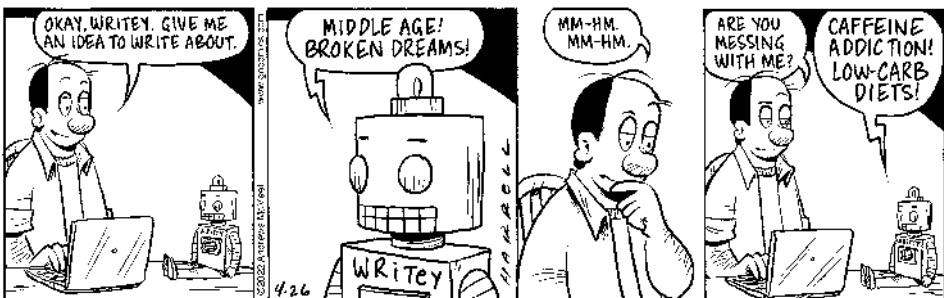
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



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By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

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22 "Carmen" solo
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Yesterday's answer 4-26

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jemima Kirke, 37; Channing Tatum, 42; Tom Wellington, 45; Kevin James, 57.

Happy Birthday: Tune into what's going on around you, and you will connect with the right people at an advantageous moment. Flawless vision will keep you in step and ensure that you take advantage of what's available to you. Trust your intuition, and use your knowledge and experience to guide you to a place that suits your expertise and desire. Pick up momentum. Your numbers are 6, 14, 22, 27, 32, 36, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Go over every detail with a microscope. Don't give anyone a chance to prove you wrong or meddle in your business. Your determination and thoroughness will be your redeeming features against outside interference and setbacks you encounter. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't wait until it's too late. Pitch in and do your part. An enthusiastic attitude will put you in a leadership position that gives you the clout to get things done in record time. The feedback you receive will boost your ego. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Dodging bullets will be part of the requirement when dealing with people trying to entice you with temptation and colorful antics that make you feel like you are missing out. Be practical and strong enough to say no. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be the one to make a move and head to the finish line. Trust in what you know and can do

and move forward with confidence. Share your ideas, and you'll gain respect and support. A personal or financial gain is within reach. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep a close watch on what others do, but don't be a copycat. Take your time, and protect your reputation and cash. Run a tight ship, budget wisely and refuse to make a precipitous move. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your timing is impeccable, and the opportunities that come your way will change your life. Jump into action, take care of business and get on with your life. Network, wheel and deal, and if you want something, ask. Personal gain is favored. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Map out what you want to achieve, then proceed. Hard work, dedication and practicality will be your ticket forward. Don't lose sight of your goal or let anyone lead you astray. Laziness and temptation will stand in the way of your success. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take care of responsibilities before moving on to enjoyable pastimes. Indulge yourself in something that puts a smile on your face or gives you purpose. Spend time developing your talents or doing things that will bring you closer to someone you love. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Distance yourself from pushy, demonstrative people using emotional tactics to win favors. A handout will come with hidden costs. Until you know what you want and what's best for you, sit tight. Time is on your side. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be offered or come up with unique ideas or ways to use your attributes. Open your doors to people who can help you make progress or improve your home, position or direction. Be attentive, and you'll get what you want. ****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be careful around people who are trying to change you. Don't feel obligated to participate in something that doesn't interest you. Be honest, and head in a direction that feels comfortable, regardless of pressure, complaints or criticism. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be observant, and it will help you make better decisions. Listen, but don't force your will on others. If you want freedom, you must grant freedom. Keeping the peace and maintaining equality are in your best interest. Personal growth is encouraged. ***

Birthday Baby: You are tactful, energetic and patient. You are colorful and witty. ☺: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☹: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★

4/26

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

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Difficulty Level ★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID
QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LAUNCHING A NEW PRODUCT

Solution: 6 letters

B E E T N U O C S I D T A T E
R R C E S T R A T E G Y N N D
O S A N R I L I A T E R T E E
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4/26

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Yesterday's Answer: Bill Clinton

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Ingram, Pelicans overwhelm Booker-less Suns to tie series

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—New Orleans started its season 3-16. Now, the pesky Pelicans are proving to be a handful for the Phoenix Suns in the Western Conference playoffs.

Brandon Ingram scored 16 of his 30 points in the third quarter and the Pelicans beat the Suns — playing without injured star Devin Booker — 118-103 in Game 4 on Sunday night to tie the first-round series. Game 5 will be Tuesday night in Phoenix.

“Brandon is playing some of his best basketball of the season, and he’s doing it on the biggest stage, and it’s great to see,” said New Orleans coach Willie Green, a rookie head coach who kept his young team together in the midst of its early season struggles and now has forced a best-of-three playoff match with the top-seeded Suns. “I’m just trying to move out of the way and let him do his thing.”

Ingram says it feels like it is the Pelicans’ time.

“We’ve worked so hard throughout the year to become a better team,” Ingram said. “My teammates put me in the right spots and are making me look good.”

Jonas Valanciunas reasserted himself in the middle with 26 points and 15 rebounds, and rookie guard Herb Jones, a defensive specialist, played smothering defense against Chris Paul.

Paul, who had 19-point fourth quarters in the Suns’ two playoff wins, was held to four points in 35 minutes. He had 11 assists, but committed three turnovers.

It was a physical game. The Pelicans converted 32 of 42 free throws while the Suns went to the line only 15 times and made 10.

“It was like the old NBA,” said Paul, who was picked up in the back court by Jones nearly the entire game. “I told



New Orleans Pelicans forward Brandon Ingram (14) shoots against Phoenix Suns guard Landry Shamet in the first half of Game 4 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series in New Orleans, Sunday, April 24, 2022.

the refs, ‘Are we playing old NBA of new NBA?’ I was fortunate enough to play in both. Regardless, whatever it is, you’ve got to adjust early in the game and figure it out.”

Jones said he simply tried to be more aggressive against Paul and not give him room to maneuver.

“We were trying to be more disruptive and more physical,” Jones said. “I feel like that’s been a huge part of our game, especially in the playoffs. You’ve got to play with a little more fire.”

Suns coach Monty Williams did not want to take away from the Pelicans’ effort, but he was upset by the disparity in foul shots.

“Forty-two to 15 in free throws — slice it any way you like to, in a playoff game that’s physical, that’s amazing,” Williams said. “Coaches shouldn’t have to come up to the microphone and feel like they’re going to get their head cut off for speaking the truth. It’s not like we didn’t attack

the basket. That’s really hard to do. They outplayed us and they deserved to win, but that’s a free throw disparity.”

The Suns played their second straight game without Booker, their leading scorer, who strained his right hamstring after scoring 31 first-half points in the Suns’ Game 2 loss. He is out indefinitely.

“We can’t worry about that,” Williams said. “The guys who are on the floor just did it (win) the other day when we played hard and didn’t shoot the 3-ball well but still won the game. (The Pelicans) played much harder.”

Deandre Ayton led the Suns with 23 points and eight rebounds, and fellow center Javale McGee had 14 points.

The Pelicans led 89-85 with 8:05 left and used a 12-0 run to ice it. Valanciunas, limited to six points in a Game 3 loss, scored 10 points in a 3:34 span of the fourth quarter to help the Pelicans pull away. He punctuated his scoring spree with a 3-pointer from the left wing.

Middleton hopes to return in 2 weeks from sprained knee

the full seven games.

“We’ve got a lot of good players,” Budenholzer said. “The roster — we’ve talked about the depth of it, the quality of it. That’s why you do it. The front office put together a great team.”

Losing Middleton is obviously a big blow for a team trying to become the first to repeat as champion since Golden State in 2017 and 2018. He averaged 20.1 points and made his third All-Star team this season.

In the Eastern Conference finals last year, Milwaukee overcame the loss of Giannis Antetokounmpo to a knee injury and won the final two games against Atlanta with

“We showed aggressiveness and we were physical out there,” Valanciunas said. “(The Suns are) a physical team and their defense is good, and matching their physicality is the key.”

Nuggets 126, Warriors 121

In Denver, Nikola Jokic scored 37 points and fed Will Barton for a 3-pointer from the left corner with 8.3 seconds left, helping Denver beat Denver to avoid a series sweep.

Monte Morris’ 7-footer broke a 121-all tie with 33.5 seconds left after the Nuggets blew a 17-point lead. Austin Rivers then stole Otto Porter Jr.’s pass.

Morris finished with 24 points. He hit five 3-pointers in the third quarter, the most in a quarter by any player in these NBA playoffs.

Steph Curry led the Warriors with 33 points. Klay Thompson scored 22 of his 32 points after picking up his fourth foul in the final second of the first

Middleton leading the way. He scored 26 points in Game 5 and 32 in the series clincher.

Milwaukee then lost the first two games against Phoenix before winning the next four to capture its second championship and first since 1971.

“There’s reference points, whether it’s things that are disappointing or frustrating that you want to learn from or there’s positives,” Budenholzer said. “Certainly, our team and our group, we know that we’ve played without Giannis a couple games last year. I think they know that you’ve just got to find a way to win games in the playoffs, and we feel capable of doing that.”

half. Jordan Poole had 11 after averaging 27.8 in the first three games of the series.

The series shifts back to San Francisco for Game 5 on Wednesday night.

Bucks 119, Bulls 95

In Chicago, Grayson Allen set playoff career highs with 27 points and six 3-pointers, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 32 points and 17 rebounds and Milwaukee beat Chicago to take a 3-1 lead.

Jrue Holiday scored 26 points, and the Bucks made it look easy again after beating the Bulls by 30 and handing them the most-lopsided

home playoff loss in franchise history. The defending NBA champions led by 22 early in the third quarter.

Bobby Portis added 14 points and 10 rebounds in his second straight start with Khris Middleton out with a sprained left knee to help Milwaukee beat Chicago for the 19th time in 21 games.

Zach LaVine led Chicago with 24 points and 13 assists, DeMar DeRozan scored 23 points and Patrick Williams had 20 points and 10 rebounds.

Game 5 is Wednesday night in Milwaukee.

Heat 110, Hawks 86

In Atlanta, Jimmy Butler scored 13 of his 36 points in a dominant second quarter and Miami beat Atlanta to take a 3-1 series lead.

Miami can wrap up the Series in Game 5 on Tuesday night in Miami.

Butler overcame a slow start. He made only 1 of 7 shots before hitting his final five shots of the first half to lead the turnaround.

Miami outscored Atlanta 30-15 in the second period, holding the Hawks to a season scoring low for the period. Butler had 10 rebounds, four assists and blocked a shot.

Atlanta’s Trae Young scored only nine points with five assists and five turnovers as he was shut down by Miami’s defense for the second time in four games. Young was held to eight points in Miami’s 115-91 Game 1 win.

De’Andre Hunter led the Hawks with 24 points.



NBA BRIEFS

Nets rule Ben Simmons out of Game 4 of series vs Celtics

Ben Simmons has been ruled out of Game 4 of Brooklyn’s playoff series against Boston, making it possible he won’t play at all this season.

The Nets listed Simmons as out Sunday on the injury report for the game Monday night, when they will be trying to avoid a sweep by the Celtics.

Simmons has been working his way back from a herniated disk in his back and coach Steve Nash said before Game 3 on Saturday that the No. 1 pick in the 2016 draft had no setbacks after a 3-on-3 scrimmage earlier in the day.

But he also cautioned there was still a lot to consider as they weighed inserting Simmons into a game when he hadn’t played since Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinals last year for Philadelphia.

Simmons then requested a trade and refused to play for the 76ers this season, cit-

ing mental health concerns. Philadelphia sent him to Brooklyn in February in a trade deadline deal for James Harden, but Simmons began to experience back pain soon after while trying to work his way back into shape. (AP)

Gobert fined \$25,000 for profanity during live TV interview

NEW YORK (AP)—Utah center Rudy Gobert was fined \$25,000 by the NBA on Sunday for using profanity during a live televised interview.

Gobert made the comments Saturday after dunking down a lob pass from Donovan Mitchell for the go-ahead basket with 11 seconds left in a 100-99 victory over Dallas that evened the Western Conference first-round series at 2-2.

Gobert was then asked about the talk about what the Jazz can accomplish in the playoffs and responded with a profane response.

Cole, Yanks sweep Guardians in series blighted by fan issues



NEW YORK

(AP)—In the foggy afterglow of the Yankees' post-game celebration, Gerrit Cole felt like he could exhale.

"Breathing is a good thing," he said with a smile. "Everybody can breathe today, right?"

Cole bounced back from the shortest start of his career, Anthony Rizzo powered a long-awaited outburst from New York's lineup and the Yankees pounded the Cleveland Guardians 10-2 Sunday to complete a three-game sweep in a series marred by fan misbehavior.

Cole (1-0) struck out nine over 6 2/3 scoreless innings, and Rizzo's two-run drive in the first inning tied him for the AL lead with five homers. New York won for the fifth time in six games, improving to 10-6 despite early concerns about their ineffective ace and a surprisingly punchless lineup.

The Yankees cranked up a fog machine, blasted loud music and celebrated their first sweep of the season in the clubhouse before taking a day off Monday.

"Just put a cherry on top, played a complete three games," Cole said.

Cleveland outfielders struggled a day after fans threw bottles, cans and other debris at them immediately following New York's walk-off victory. Myles Straw and Oscar Mercado were heckled after misplays, and breakout rookie Steven Kwan left early with right hamstring tightness.

The Yankees said they increased security in the stands Sunday, and fans appeared to refrain from more beverage tossing.

The Bronx's famed Bleacher Creatures lobbed plenty of insults, though, especially at Straw in center and Mercado in right.

Straw, who called Yankee Universe the "worst fan base on the planet" after Saturday's incident, was greeted by chants of "Crybaby!" and sarcastically called "Peter Parker" for his Spiderman-like climb up the wall to confront at least one fan face to face.

Straw got the loudest boos during lineup introductions, and fans pointed and jeered when he and second baseman Andrés Giménez miscommunicated on Hicks' bases-loaded popup during New York's three-run third inning.

Mercado badly misjudged DJ LeMahieu's line drive in the second, letting it go over his head for an RBI double that also delighted fans.

LeMahieu had three hits and three RBIs, including a two-run homer in the sixth, and pinch-hitter Tim Lincecum pulled a two-run drive in the eighth as New York's slumping offense had its biggest day of the year. It took the Yankees 16 games this season to score at least seven runs in a



New York Yankees starting pitcher Gerrit Cole deals against the Cleveland Guardians during the first inning of a baseball game, Sunday, April 24, 2022, in New York.

game, a first for the franchise since 1990.

Twins 6, White Sox 4, 10 innings

In Minneapolis, Byron Buxton hit his second homer of the game, a 469-foot, three-run drive in the 10th inning, and Minnesota sent Chicago to its seventh straight loss.

Buxton's two-run, opposite-field homer to right in the seventh against Aaron Bummer tied the score 3-3.

After Yasmani Grandal's RBI single in the 10th off Joe Smith (1-0), Liam Hendriks (0-2) walked José Godoy with one out in the bottom half after automatic runner Nick Gordon began the inning on second.

Hendriks fell behind 3-1 in the count, and Buxton drove a fastball into the left-field second deck for the longest game-ending home run since MLB Statcast starting tracking in 2015.

Reds 4, Cardinals 1

In Cincinnati, first-round draft pick Nick Lodolo got his first major league win as Cincinnati beat St. Louis to end an 11-game skid, its worst in six years.

Colin Moran drove in two runs for the Reds, who had been 0-4 at home this year and had not won anywhere since April 10. Cincinnati is a majors-worst 3-13.

Lodolo (1-2) allowed three hits, struck out seven and walked none in 5 1/3 scoreless innings. Adam Wainwright (2-2) allowed four runs, eight hits and three walks in five-plus innings.

Dodgers 10, Padres 2

In San Diego, Cody Bellinger homered twice and drove in four runs, leading Clayton

Kershaw and Los Angeles past San Diego.

Freddie Freeman added a two-run homer as the Dodgers beat the Padres for the 11th time in 12 games.

Kershaw (3-0) allowed one run and four hits in five innings.

Sean Manaea (2-2) gave up Bellinger's first homer and allowed seven runs in 4 1/3 innings.

Brewers 1, Phillies 0

In Philadelphia, Eric Lauer struck out a career-high 13 over six innings, Christian Yelich hit a sacrifice fly in the ninth and Milwaukee edged Philadelphia.

Lauer and Aaron Nola took no-decisions in a pitchers' duel that saw the starters combine for 22 strikeouts. Nola gave up one hit and struck out nine in seven shutout innings.

The Brewers finally broke through in the ninth against Corey Knebel (0-1). Jace Peterson singled leading off and moved to third on Andrew McCutchen's one-out single. Knebel, who saved 57 games in five seasons with the Brewers, gave up Yelich's sac fly to left field that scored Peterson.

Devin Williams (1-0) worked the eighth and Josh Hader finished for his eighth save.

Lauer gave up five hits, walked one and threw 66 of 98 pitches for strikes. He joined Teddy Higuera as the only left-handers in Brewers history to strike out 13 batters in a game.

Giants 12, Nationals 3

In Washington, Joc Pederson homered twice, doubled and drove in three runs as San Francisco completed a three-game sweep of Washington.

Wilmer Flores added three

RBI singles for San Francisco, which swept a series of at least three games at Nationals Park for the first time June 6-9, 2008.

Logan Webb (2-1) allowed three runs on seven hits and struck out six over 6 2/3 innings.

Joan Adon (1-3) pitched four-plus innings and was charged with five runs on six hits.

Angels 7, Orioles 6

In Anaheim, Calif., Jo Adell hit a grand slam, Shohei Ohtani scored the go-ahead run on a bases-loaded walk, and Los Angeles beat Baltimore despite blowing a six-run, first-inning lead.

Adell greeted reliever Travis Lakins Sr. with his second career slam to make it 6-0 before the Orioles recorded an out. Lakins got the next nine outs without allowing a hit.

Trey Mancini hit a three-run homer in the third inning and Austin Hays tied it with a two-run homer in the seventh off Austin Warren (2-0) as the Orioles sought their first three-game sweep of the Angels since 2010.

Ohtani led off the bottom of the seventh with a single off Mike Baumann (1-2). Taylor Ward worked a full count against Félix Bautista before drawing a walk on the ninth pitch of the at-bat.

Archie Bradley got the last three outs for his first save.

Rays 5, Red Sox 2

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Shane Bieber beat Boston to become Tampa Bay's first starting pitcher to get a win this season.

The Red Sox scored twice in the first inning against McClanahan, but pinch-hitter Ji-Man Choi had a tying, two-

run double as the Rays rallied for three runs in the fifth.

McClanahan (1-1) pitched shutout ball from the second through the sixth.

Phillips Valdez (0-1) took the loss in relief of starter Rich Hill.

Astros 8, Blue Jays 7, 10 innings

In Houston, rookie Jeremy Peña hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning and Houston beat Toronto to avoid a sweep.

The Astros snapped a four-game skid and ended Toronto's four-game winning streak.

Automatic runner Kyle Tucker was on second with one out when Peña connected off closer Jordan Romano (1-0), who had converted 31 save chances in a row.

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. doubled in the Toronto 10th to make it 7-6. Blake Taylor (1-1) got the final out of the inning.

Mariners 5, Royals 4, 12 innings

In Seattle, Jesse Winker capped an 11-pitch at-bat with a broken-bat single to score Adam Frazier in the 12th inning, and Seattle completed a three-game sweep of Kansas City.

Winker had an 11-pitch at-bat in the 10th inning ending with a sacrifice fly that scored Frazier to tie the game at 4-4.

Two innings later, Winker fouled off seven pitches from Kansas City's Joel Payamps (0-1) before dumping his first hit of the game into right field.

Yohan Ramirez (1-0) escaped a bases-loaded jam in the 12th.

Athletics 2, Rangers 0

In Oakland, Calif., Cole Irvin and three relievers combined on a four-hitter, Ste-

phen Piscotty homered in his second game back from the COVID-19 injured list, and Oakland beat Texas to avoid a sweep.

Irvin (2-1) allowed one hit in five innings to win his second straight decision. Dany Jiménez worked out of a two-out, two-on jam in the ninth for his third save.

The A's had scored one run in the first 21 innings against the Rangers before Piscotty's two-run drive off Spencer Howard (0-1) in the fourth.

Mets 6, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Tylor Megill threw 6 2/3 impressive innings, Francisco Lindor added a pair of hits and New York took two of three from Arizona.

The Mets have won five straight series to start the season, matching a franchise record set in 2018.

Megill (3-0) gave up two runs on four hits, walking one. He struck out seven.

J.B. Wendelken (0-1) allowed one run in one inning of relief.

Marlins 5, Braves 4

In Miami, Garrett Cooper had three hits and two RBIs, Avisail García hit a go-ahead double in the fifth inning and Miami took two of three from Atlanta.

Atlanta trailed 5-1 in the ninth before Matt Olson's sacrifice fly and Austin Riley's two-run homer off Tanner Scott. Louis Head relieved and got his first big league save, allowing Marcell Ozuna's double and then striking out Adam Duvall and Eddie Rosario.

Jesús Luzardo (1-1) allowed one run and two hits in five innings.

Atlanta starter Bryce Elder (1-2) gave up two runs five hits and six walks in 4 2/3 innings.

Rockies 6, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Randal Grichuk had three hits, including his first home run of the season, and Colorado beat Detroit.

Charlie Blackmon had four hits, scored twice and drove in two runs for Colorado.

Chad Kuhl (2-0) allowed one run and four hits in six innings.

Tyler Alexander (0-2) gave up five runs on eight hits and a walk in 3 2/3 innings.

Pirates 4, Cubs 3

In Chicago, Dillon Peters keyed a solid performance by Pittsburgh's bullpen and Kevin Newman had two hits against Chicago.

Peters (3-0) pitched 2 2/3 innings in relief of JT Brubaker. The left-hander ran his season-opening scoreless streak to 10 1/3 innings over five appearances. David Bednar worked the ninth for his second save.

Pittsburgh went ahead to stay with two in the third against Justin Steele (1-2).

Chamber golf tourney set for Saturday



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TakeCare Insurance Inc. is the official gold sponsor of the 2022 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament set for this Saturday, April 30, at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. is the official hole-in-one sponsor of the 2022 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament set for this Saturday, April 30, at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Atkins Kroll is the official hole-in-one sponsor of the 2022 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament set for this Saturday, April 30, at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Annual Golf Tournament is set for this Saturday, April 30, at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's west course.

The annual fundraising event provides financial support for the Chamber's scholarship program, which awards local students seeking higher education to better contribute to the CNMI community, and other Chamber programming opportunities.

The Chamber's Annual Golf Tournament will be using a two-person scramble format.

Golfers of different skill levels will have a chance to win amazing cash prizes in the two categories, which are Team Gross and Team Double Peoria. First place gets to take home \$800, while second place and third place pockets \$650 and \$500, respectively.

In addition, golfers have the opportunity to add a little competition with optional play contests for a chance to win \$150 in cash prizes per contest. Golfers will also enjoy complimentary swag bags

courtesy of the Chamber members, on-course snacks and refreshments, and post-tournament refreshments.

Showtime for the Chamber's Two-Person Scramble Annual Golf Tournament is at 6am and a shotgun start at 7am.

The Chamber is also pleased to have the continued support of its generous members, golfers, and volunteers, and SCC looks forward to hosting an exciting event for a good cause.

Just some of the sponsors of this weekend's tournament

include gold sponsor TakeCare Insurance Inc. and Hole-In-One sponsors Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. and Atkins Kroll.

For more information about the Chamber's Annual Golf Tournament or the Chamber itself, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/saipanchamber, visit their office in the Marianas Business Plaza Room #413 (Susupe), or contact Franco Santos at coordinator@saipanchamber.com or call our office at (670) 234-7150. (PR)

TANIA

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training with the rest of the national team. She will definitely push and inspire them all to new heights. Also, Tania has two more years of eligibility at university and I hope I might just have the opportunity to update the records a few more times. So, as my typical Facebook posts end... "Go Tania!" he said.

A week after her record-setting 5000m run, Tan also set a new outdoor track record after

completing the 10,000m in 39:41 at the Metropolitan Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

Last March 19, Tan also reset the 3,000m outdoor record with a time of 10:58.76 at the Stony Brook Snow Flake Classic, which bested her former record set at the Micronesian Championships on Saipan. The 5,000m indoor CNMI record also fell when she ran the distance with a time of 18:52:21 at the Metropolitan Championship last Feb. 4.

MANTA

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long distance race following a second place finish behind the Manta Rays.

Marianas High School was a distant third with an overall point total of 16. The Dolphins got 8 points each on the 500m and 1,000m and didn't field a team in the long distance race.

Manta Ray coach Joe Weaver said his team won the PSS outrigger canoe championship this year purely because of hard work.

"What did it take? Just a lot of work, a lot of dedication, and Kagman was the team to beat and we trained really hard. We only had two returning paddlers so a lot of the crew was new so they came together and got the [cham-

pionship]."

He also acknowledged that his boys' parents should also get the lion's share of the credit for the Manta Rays winning the championship this year.

"It was pretty much up to the parents if they will let their kids train with us and we managed to overcome that and the boys came out on top. So, it's a good season. I wanna thank all the parents of course and all the teachers and staff who supported us. All the other coaches who motivated us and inspired us and [Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation] president Justin Andrew for all his work, too," said Weaver.

Making up the champion Manta Rays team are Michael Peters, Eric David, Tyler An-

drew, Marion Sayas, Joshua Socorro, Jeriko Gaan, Philip Aldan, Casiano Aldan, Skye Kangdoo, and Noel Roque.

Aside from last Saturday's final race, point totals were accumulated from races held last March 26, April 2, and April 9. The April 23 race had double points awarded.

Kagman coach Jason Tarkong tipped his hat to Weaver and SSHS for dethroning them in the boys division of the PSS Interscholastic Outrigger Canoe Race 2021-2022.

"Saipan Southern High School under the coaching of Joe Weaver and his team really had the advantage as far as hard training. Kagman is the defending champions and we have a lot of returning paddlers with some of them

having been paddling for four years. Unfortunately, they didn't pull it off this year simply because of lack of practice. There's a saying 'hard work will always beat talent if talent refuses to work hard.' So, it doesn't matter how good you are but if you're not constantly practicing and Southern definitely showed that they're practicing hard and they had the eye of the tiger."

The 2021 NMSA Athlete of the Year said the Manta Rays didn't let up when they smell blood in the water and that resulted in the championship for SSHS.

"They were hungry and they've proven it. I'm not taking anything away from them and I actually compliment them and although emotionally some members of our team

felt bad, the reality is obviously you guys didn't practice enough. We did practice kind of late but that's no excuse. It's a great opportunity to see another team like Southern High just shine and the talent they have in that crew. Marianas High School, under the coaching of Eddie Johnson, has really come a long way in just a short time," he said.

Tarkong also made special mention of Johnson's girls long distance team who came out of nowhere to beat powerhouses KHS and SSHS last April 2.

"That MHS long distance team was just really good and they really smoked the other girls teams, but Kagman High I'm going to miss my seniors. A lot of them were starting for me...MHS and Kagman did

kinda started late and Southern had a good program and it was continuing. They worked hard and they deserve the win so it was a great honor to battle against them," he said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-----------|----|----|------|----|
| New York | 10 | 6 | .625 | — |
| Toronto | 10 | 6 | .625 | — |
| Tampa Bay | 9 | 7 | .563 | 1 |
| Boston | 7 | 9 | .438 | 3 |
| Baltimore | 6 | 10 | .375 | 4 |

Central Division

| | | | | |
|-------------|---|---|------|----|
| Minnesota | 8 | 8 | .500 | |
| Cleveland | 7 | 8 | .467 | ½ |
| Chicago | 6 | 9 | .400 | 1½ |
| Detroit | 6 | 9 | .400 | 1½ |
| Kansas City | 5 | 9 | .357 | 2 |

West Division

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|------|----|
| Seattle | 10 | 6 | .625 | |
| Los Angeles | 9 | 7 | .563 | 1 |
| Oakland | 9 | 8 | .529 | 1½ |
| Houston | 7 | 8 | .467 | 2½ |
| Texas | 5 | 10 | .333 | 4½ |

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

| | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|------|----|
| New York | 12 | 5 | .706 | |
| Miami | 7 | 8 | .467 | 4 |
| Atlanta | 7 | 10 | .412 | 5 |
| Philadelphia | 6 | 10 | .375 | 5½ |
| Washington | 6 | 12 | .333 | 6½ |

Central Division

| | | | | |
|------------|----|----|------|---|
| St. Louis | 9 | 5 | .643 | — |
| Milwaukee | 10 | 6 | .625 | — |
| Pittsburgh | 8 | 8 | .500 | 2 |
| Chicago | 7 | 9 | .438 | 3 |
| Cincinnati | 3 | 13 | .188 | 7 |

West Division

| | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|----|
| Los Angeles | 11 | 4 | .733 | — |
| San Francisco | 11 | 5 | .688 | ½ |
| Colorado | 10 | 5 | .667 | 1 |
| San Diego | 10 | 7 | .588 | 2 |
| Arizona | 6 | 10 | .375 | 5½ |

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CNMI

From Page 20

coming NMIPMG22.

"Overall, the Pacific Games Council is pleased with the benchmarks the organizing committee has been achieving. The NMI has captured the spirit of the Games and we see the support and excitement of the community," said Lakhan.

Lakhan further expressed the importance of delivering the best Games possible. "You want these Games to be something the organizing committee and the commu-

nity at large will be proud of. This will be an event spoken about by future generations, highlighting the CNMI and its accomplishments on a global platform," he said.

The work of the organizing committee was recognized by the Games Council executive leadership. The success of the PMG in the NMI will create buzz for the region and result in other countries vying to serve as future host sites for the Games. "The success of these Games is in the best interest for the region as it will garner interest and the continuity of Games

in the area," said Lakhan.

These Games, massive in size and undertaking, are still a scaled back version due to the effects of a typhoon. Still, athletes from many countries are coming to compete and represent their country. "We are in the business of delivering Games. It is critically important to make sure that athletes win medals," said Lakhan.

"President Lakhan has outlined the important objectives for the Games. We see the NMI has the people and the facilities. It's just a matter of melding these objectives with

the NMI people and their facilities for success," said Minogue.

Acknowledging the challenge of coordinating visas for visiting countries, Minogue stressed the importance of not turning anyone away and making sure athletes are able to come to the NMI to compete. "Without athletes, we have no Games. That is one of the most important factors that make a Games successful. I'm positive the organizing committee, with the help of the government, will tackle this challenge and resolve any

outstanding visa issues making sure we have competitive Games," said Minogue.

Lakhan and Minogue noted the organizing committee's cohesiveness and stressed their support and assistance. "With only 56 days until the NMIPMG22, we wish the committee the best and are here to help. We have every confidence in the ability to transform the place into a memorable event."

Lakhan and Minogue also met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to discuss the CNMI's progress. (PR)



Ingram, Pelicans
overwhelm Booker-
less Suns to tie
series

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Chamber golf
tournament set for
Saturday

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20 TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Manta Rays rule boys va'a division



Manta Rays rule boys va'a division

MARK RABAGO

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays boys team celebrates after coming in first in the 1,000m during the final day of the Public School System Interscholastic Outrigger Canoe Race 2021-2022 held last Saturday in the waters off Kilili Beach in Susupe.

MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays brought home the perpetual championship trophy to Koblerville after winning the boys division of the Public School System Interscholastic Outrigger Canoe Race 2021-2022 last Saturday in the waters off Kilili Beach in Susupe.

The Manta Rays put an end to rival Kagman High School's three-year reign after finishing the four weekend race with a total of 71 points. SSHS finished runner-up in the boys 500m with 30 points and won the 1,000m with 26 points before gaining another 5 points

in the long distance race.

The Ayuyus finished a mere 4 points behind SSHS with 65 total points after topping the 500m with 34 points and coming in second in the 1,000m with 28 points. They then tallied 3 points in the

See MANTA on Page 19

AS PREPARATIONS CONTINUE FOR MINI GAMES

CNMI welcomes Pacific Games Council

Pacific Games Council president Vidhya Lakhan and CEO Andrew Minogue last week paid a visit to the CNMI in preparation for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

Lakhan and Minogue individually met with the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee members to get progress updates for the up-

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MARK RABAGO

Pacific Games Council president Vidhya Lakhan, second from left, is joined in the press conference at the NMSA conference room Thursday by, from left, Pacific Games Council CEO Andrew Minogue, Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan, and Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter.

Tania break's Noriko's 5000m record

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tania Tan is laying waste to records left and right, this time resetting the CNMI outdoor 5000m record after running a 18:51.02 in the 56th Annual Colonial Relays.

Women's 5000 Run University at the College of William and Mary last April 1.

Suiting up for Fordham University, the 20-year-old junior eclipsed the 19:24 set by Noriko Jim in June 26, 2006 at the Micronesian Games on Saipan.

"I'm tired... I was actually hoping to run a faster time, but it's okay. Each race is a

learning experience. I'm just going to keep putting myself out there, training each day, and hopefully it pays off in the end... [My] strategy was just to go out there and race," said Tan in social media message to *Saipan Tribune*.

Asked if her breaking records nearly every month is a good sign leading up to her participation in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, Tan said she's just looking forward to represent her home islands in the quadrennial event.

"I actually am excited! I'm excited to race on our newly renovated track. Coming home in about a month!"

said the Saipan International School alumnae.

CNMI National Athletics coach Dr. Ron Snyder said he can't wait for Tan to return home and start training with the CNMI National Athletics Team.

"I am so looking forward to training Tania again for the Mini Games. I was so proud when she left SIS and decided to keep running at Fordham. She is a perfect lesson of what hard work and determination can do. Her times at the last two meets position her well for a medal at the Mini Games and I can't wait until she starts her

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Tan



052

DAYS LEFT UNTIL



JUNE 17-25, 2022

